

Amusement TODAY

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INSIDE:



**A7's Annual Park Christmas
Spotlight: Pages 6-7, 17-20**

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NEWTALK

Wheel of a view



Slade

During the recently concluded 34th annual World Waterpark Association Symposium & Trade Show at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, convention attendees (including the AT staff) had the opportunity to experience the new High Roller observation wheel on The Strip.

Certified by Guinness World Records as the largest attraction of its type, the High Roller stands 550 tall, features 28 cabins that can accommodate up to 40 guests each, and makes approximately one full revolution every 30 minutes. The new wheel debuted on March 31 of this year and is owned and operated by Caesars Entertainment.

Caesars did an outstanding job locating this skyline-changing attraction at the back of its Flamingo and Quad hotel properties and adjacent to the Las Vegas Monorail, which shuttles visitors between casinos. The High Roller overlooks a 300,000-square-foot entertainment district that was carved out of a former service alley between the two hotels. The new area, called The Linq, incorporates the best elements of Downtown Disney and Universal CityWalk — fitting, since former executives of those companies helped envision and currently manage it.

The Linq has a nice assortment of shops and restaurants that work well together and as part of the High Roller setting. The ride itself is smooth and fun, and it offers brand-new perspectives on the city. Congratulations to Caesars for a job well done. We wish you all the best as you head in to the busy holiday season and prepare for the always impressive Las Vegas New Year's fireworks show!

HOLIDAY DEADLINES / NOTICES

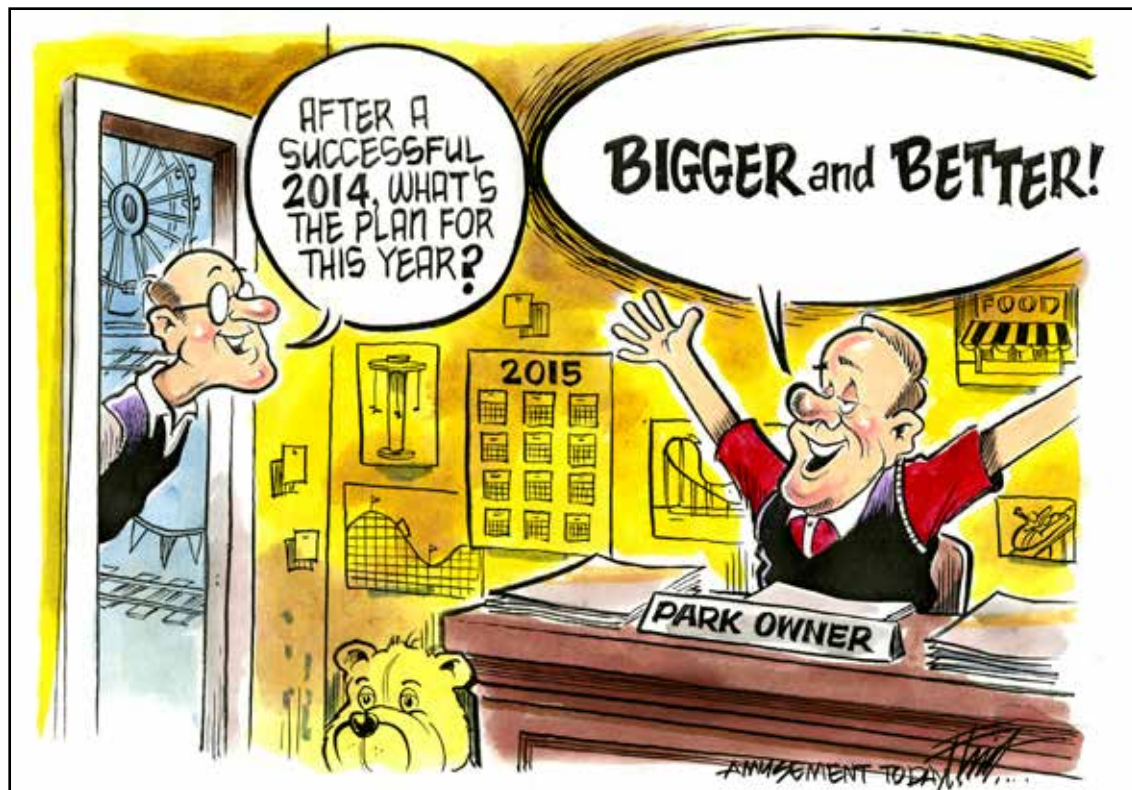
Due to the annual holiday mail rush, *Amusement Today* would like to remind advertisers wishing to place ads in the January 2015 issue that all ad art will be due by Dec. 5, 2014. The January issue, featuring AT's annual Spotlight on Safety as well as a complete recap from the IAAPA trade show floor, will print and mail prior to the Christmas holiday break.

Amusement Today's new 2015 Media Planner and Calendar is now available at amusementtoday.com, or you may call (817) 460-7220 x1 to request a mailed copy.

So that the staff of *Amusement Today* can enjoy time at home with family and friends during this holiday season, the AT offices will be closed beginning Monday December 22, 2014 and will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2015.

The entire staff of *Amusement Today* wishes everyone in the amusement industry a safe and happy holiday season, and we say "Thank You" to all for your continued support! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CARTOON: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

Passion gets results



Mellor

I think most of us have a passion for something in life, and within the amusement and theme park industry there are plenty of individuals who are truly passionate about what they do and the things they set out to achieve.

For some it will be creating a brand new attraction, or maybe theming a ride or facility that blows people away when they see it for the first time. For others, it might be dedicating themselves to a particular cause, like those who restore old rides so they are not lost for ever, or others who work — usually voluntarily — to ensure the history of the industry is kept alive, maybe in museums, archives or in other ways.

Here in the UK where I live, two places that currently stand out in this area of the attractions industry are the Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre, in Devon, and Dreamland Amusement Park in Kent. The former has done a fantastic job, with the help of many volunteers, of saving and restoring a huge range of travelling fairground equipment, including complete and

unique rides, many of which operate indoors at the venue. It's a stunning collection.

At Dreamland much work is being carried out to bring the traditional seaside park back to its former glory. The plan is to operate it as a commercial venture with older rides and attractions and as I reported in AT recently, the centerpiece of the park, the Scenic Railway, is now undergoing restoration work which will see the ride back in operation for the park's reopening next year. Indeed, the start of the work on the Scenic Railway means that the opening of the world's first amusement park of thrilling historic rides is on target.

There is clearly a lot to be done at Dreamland to reach that goal and numerous people are involved in the project, including many who have volunteered their time over many years to push it forward to where it is today. Those people have passionately believed in bringing the park back to life and it will be a magical moment when the opening ceremony takes place and the first rides are taken.

So credit to all those whose passion for a cause, whatever it may be, brings such impressive results.

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Ron Hubner, Valleyfair

The only job Ron Hubner has ever known has been at Valleyfair where he started his amusement career at age 15 as a parking lot attendant. Thirty-five years later, Ron is still enjoying the excitement and atmosphere of the midway as director of merchandise and games for the Minnesota amusement park. Ron met his wife at the park and their two children have both held summer jobs at Valleyfair. When he is not working, Ron is usually planning or dreaming of his next vacation!

Title

Director of Merchandise and Games.

Number of years in the industry

35.

Best thing about the industry

We sell fun for a living! There are not a lot of careers that give you that opportunity.

Favorite amusement ride

The Beast at Kings Island.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ...

A much better golfer.

Biggest challenge facing our industry

Staffing looks like it is going to be difficult going forward. We really have to make sure that we separate ourselves from the pack and make sure that we are the employer of choice in our area.



Hubner

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is ...

Opening Day. Other than Christmas, it's my favorite day of the year.

Favorite holiday food

Christmas ham or pumpkin pie. (Let's be honest, is there really a bad holiday food.)

The best thing about living in Minnesota is ...

Warm weather vacations in the winter.

Take your pick: hot tea or hot chocolate?

Hot tea, served cold without the tea.

The first thing I do when I get to my office is ...

Turn the lights on.

It's December. My favorite holiday song is ...

"Baby, It's Cold Outside" by Will Ferrell and Zoëy Deschanel in the movie Elf.

The neatest place I have seen a sunrise is ...

In a hot air balloon. For my 28th birthday my wife took me out for an early morning flight.

At home, my television is most often set to ...

ESPN. Although since I've turned 50, I have this strange attraction to re-runs of "Matlock" and "Murder She Wrote."



You are going on a safari. What three things would you take with you?

This one's easy ... Good shoes for walking, sunscreen to protect my head, and most importantly a nice hotel room. I'm not sleeping in a tent with a bunch of wild animals around.

The best pizza I ever tasted would have to be ...

A deep-dish in Chicago. (Sorry New York.)

Favorite childhood book

"Where the Wild Things Are" and now I get to work at the park where the Wild Thing is.

The person I would most like to be stuck in an elevator with is ...

Any good elevator repairman would be perfect.

Favorite game show

I'm old school, Jeopardy is still the best.

It's a Friday night. Where would we typically find you?

Date night with my wife.

In 10 years, I would like to be ...

Alive.

When I say snow, you say ...

"Hello" to my travel agent.

My favorite sport to play is ...

Frisbee golf. I'm pretty sure that I am the only person in Minnesota that would not list hockey.

When I look out my front yard I see ...

A lot of yard work that I neglected over the summer.

If I could do one thing over from yesterday, it would be ...

Nothing. I would rather move forward and not look back.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



•**1904: Frank Melville** announced in mid-December that a new park was to be opened between Passaic and Paterson (actually located in Clifton), New Jersey. The new operation would become **Fairyland**, built on the former Olympia baseball field. The five acre park was the work of **Melville** and **J.J. Schultheiser**, and was the first amusement park to open in northern New Jersey. It debuted on May 27, 1905 and contained an extensive collection of rides, including a **Figure Eight** roller coaster, **Circle Swing**, **Old Mill** and other attractions. While the owners expected to open other Fairyland parks across the Northeast, the national recession hurt businesses and the park would close after the 1908 season. Ironically **Palisades Amusement Park** in Cliffside Park, New Jersey, would quickly take up the slack, only eight miles east of Fairyland.

•**1907:** After a massive summer fire in 1907 destroyed most of the original **Steeplechase Park**, in Coney Island, New York, the owner announced plans on December 28, to rebuild the park at a cost of \$1 million. **George C. Tilyou**, who was going up against the two other competing giants on the island, **Luna Park** and **Dreamland**, discussed the improvements with the *New York Times*. He stated that the new park would have a glass enclosed pavilion, with a structure built of steel and concrete. The new fireproof Steeplechase opened in 1908 with the extraordinary Pavilion of Fun as its centerpiece. The famous **Steeplechase** horse ride would encircle the building, bringing back the signature ride lost in the earlier fire. The park would last another 57 seasons, closing after the 1964 season.

•**1917: H. F. MacGarvie**, representing the organization that was planning a **World's Fair** in The Bronx, New York, announced in mid-December that the unique project was in the process of being constructed and would open in May, 1918. Located south of West Farms Square, between The Bronx River and the New York and Boston Railroad right of way, **The Bronx International Exposition of Science, Arts and Industries** opened on June 29, 1918. As an international fair, it fell short with only a limited representation of foreign countries, but would continue as an amusement park after 1919, under the new name — **Starlight Park**. It contained a roller coaster, all the typical rides associated with an amusement park, as well as a large swimming pool.

1990: William L. Cobb, the celebrated wood coaster designer and engineer passed away on December 17, in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 73. Born in 1917, Cobb would go on to design several important major coasters during the 1970s and 1980s, including the **Tornado** at **Adventureland Park** in Iowa; **Judge Roy Scream** at **Six Flags Over Texas**; the **Riverside Park Cyclone** and **Le Monstre** at **La Ronde** in Montreal, Canada. He founded **William Cobb & Associates** in 1948, which undertook much of the engineering related to his consulting work with both building construction and amusement rides. He was possibly most famous for his work with **Astroworld**, in Houston, Texas, with the creation of the **Texas Cyclone** (with **Donald Rosser**), which would eventually elevate him to legendary status in the industry. At the time, the **Cyclone** in New York was in danger of being demolished, but had proven too costly to relocate, so a new and larger model was erected in Texas. Ironically, in a twist of fate, the Texas Cyclone was unceremoniously demolished in 2006, while the original Cyclone, approaching its 89th season, still operates on Surf Avenue in **Coney Island**.

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Amusement TODAY

18th ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKING GUIDE

Jason McClure

**Cedar Point
Vice President & General Manager**



Below is my wife's (Kim) recipe for Sweet Potato Casserole.

Ingredients:

- 1 (40 oz.) can sweet potatoes (yams) drained
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 stick margarine, softened
- 1 tbsp vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/3 cup margarine
- 1 cup chopped pecans

- Place in a greased casserole dish.

- Mix brown sugar, flour, 1/3 cup melted margarine and pecans together.

- Sprinkle over the sweet potatoes.

- Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

- Mix sweet potatoes, sugar, softened 1/2 stick margarine, vanilla, eggs, and cinnamon with mixer.

Neal Thurman

**Six Flags Fiesta Texas
Park President**



Below is my family recipe for cheese grits, something we make every holiday season.

Cheese Grits

Serves 4-6 people.

Step 1 – Prepare the day before then chill over night. Heat 2 cups of milk until steaming. Add 1/2 cup of hominy grits and cook until thick. Stir and remove from heat. Add 1/4 lb. of butter and 1 cup of sharp grated cheddar cheese. Season with red pepper and salt. Add 1 lightly beaten egg and chill overnight.

Step 2 – Day of meal. Cover and cook in oven for 1 hour at 350 degrees. Remove cover after the first 30 minutes in the oven. Serve warm and enjoy!

Joann V. Cortez

**Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District
Communications Director**



Here is a super easy to prepare and delicious recipe a friend shared with me that my entire family looks forward to each holiday season!

Christmas Cherry Cheese Surprise

- 1 large container of whipped cream cheese
- 1 small container of Cool Whip
- 1 small container of marshmallow cream
- 1 large can of cherry pie filling
- 1 box of Graham crackers

cake pan with Graham crackers.

Whip first three ingredients together to a smooth consistency and spoon over the Graham crackers.

Top with cherry pie filling.

Chill and serve in small pudding dishes.

Enjoy the smiles!

Line the bottom of a glass

Great Wolf Lodge

Grapevine, Texas



Grilled Shrimp and Farro Salad

- 4 shrimp, thawed and peeled
- 2 tsp. canola oil
- 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper mix
- 3 oz. cooked farro
- 4 cherry tomatoes
- 1 oz. kalamata olives, cut in half, pitted
- 2 oz. sliced english cucumber
- 1/4 oz. fresh mint
- 2 oz. crumbled feta cheese
- 2 oz. red wine vinaigrette

2. Grill for 2 minutes per side, or until fully cooked but still moist — remove from grill and reserve.

3. Place all salad ingredients, except dressing and cook shrimp in mixing bowl.

4. Stir dressing well, the ladle over salad. Gently toss salad together to combine.

5. Serve immediately.

1. Coat shrimp evenly with oil, then season with salt and pepper mix evenly on both sides.

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INTERNATIONAL

► Gerstlauer supplying Blackpool Pleasure Beach with Sky Fly ride in 2015 — Page 9

European parks offer seasonal fun and fare

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

Christmas and New Year opening continues to be a popular option for parks around the world and European venues are no exception. Here we take a look at just a few of those venues that are offering some festive fun this Christmas.

Liseberg,

Gothenburg, Sweden

Liseberg's Christmas market will create a magical place filled with wonders from different times and different places.

A walk through the park will take guests from a medieval village where the king and his court are preparing for the midwinter feast, past a traditional Christmas market with its candy apples and carolers and over to the park's snowy Lappland where they will find fires to sit by as they try out a variety of northern delicacies.

In the woodland near Lappland, Santa will have his Christmas workshop featuring a magical wishing machine and a gift wrapping machine. Here visitors will be able to write their own wish list and hand it to Santa. Outside the workshop will be his reindeers and sleigh tours will be on offer. In the Rabbitland kids can ride the carousels, watch the Christmas show and hug the Liseberg rabbits.

A major element of Liseberg's Christmas opening, which in 2013 attracted 532,000 visitors, is the five million lights that adorn the park and give it a special festive atmosphere, while this year's show stopper will be a new ice show. Inspired by H.C. Andersen's story about the Snow Queen, which also inspired the movie Frozen, Liseberg will present Snödrottningen. With nearly 50 skaters on the ice, the show tells the story



A Christmas market (above left) is one of the main aspects of Liseberg's festive opening. Above right, the park will glitter with five million lights during its Christmas opening period. COURTESY LISEBERG



CHRISTMAS SPOTLIGHT 2014



of a young man kidnapped by the Snow Queen and his girlfriend's struggle to save him. It's a classic tale of good and evil, but with a twist.

A total of 26 attractions around the park will also be open over the festive period.

Drayton Manor Theme Park,
Tamworth, Staffordshire, U.K.

The hugely popular Thom-

► See HOLIDAYS, page 7

Above, the entertainment at Gardaland over the Christmas season will include a variety of shows and parades. At right, a huge Christmas tree will be a major feature of Gardaland's Magic Christmas. COURTESY GARDALAND





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►HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 6

as Land will again play a central role in Drayton Manor's Magical Christmas this year which takes place November 22 to December 31.

The park will feature festive decorations and music throughout and a total of 21 rides and attractions will be available for visitors to enjoy, while there will also be a chance to meet Father Christmas in his Castle of Dreams. Santa's reindeer will be making an appearance in the park's zoo, resting up before they leave for their busiest night of the year on Christmas Eve!

In addition to the aforementioned items, Drayton's Magical Christmas will also include several other key features. Among these will be live shows in Thomas Land with the Fat Controller and friends, snow falls at least three times a day in Thomas Land, a Christmas Tree light show throughout each day and, new for 2014, an ice skating rink. Fireworks behind the Castle of Dreams will also add to the festivities, while the Polar Express film will be shown in the park's 4D Cinema.

A ticket package of park entry and access to the Castle of Dreams is being offered, with every child utilizing this receiving a gift from Father Christmas and a Golden Ticket which admits one free child to Drayton Manor during the 2015 season when accompanied by a paying adult. A park only-entry ticket is also available.

A selection of packages over the festive period is also being offered in the park's 4-star hotel.

Gardaland
Garda, Verona, Italy
Gardaland Magic Winter,



Visitors to Drayton Manor will be able to enjoy live shows (above left) in Thomas Land with the Fat Controller and his friends. Above right, Thomas Land will play a key role in the park's Christmas activities. COURTESY DRAYTON MANOR

with its partial park opening, will feature several themed shows as well as a winter parade, ice rink and go-kart track.

Surrounded by a magical Yuletide atmosphere, Gardaland mascot Prezzemolo and his friends will welcome guests at the entrance of the park to transport them into a world of dreams. At Gardaland Theatre visitors will be able to witness a compelling fable, a musical show where the elves from Santa Claus' toy factory will have to try and save this special festivity. A special guest of the show will be Pistillo the fantasist, directly from Italia 1's TV program "Colorado."

At the Theatre of Marionettes, the clown Pass Pass will entertain guests, while make-up artists will be on hand to offer face painting to younger visitors. The Carrozza di Natale (Christmas Coach) will also be offering rides around the streets of Gardaland.

In the West village, adults and children will have a chance to meet Father Christmas and

in the same area, during the late afternoon, Prezzemolo will magically make it snow. Raft/slide rides for children and adults will also be among the attractions available and a Winter Parade featuring luxurious costumes, Christmas carols and thousands of colorful lights will also be featured. And at the end of each day, further entertainment will take place in conjunction with the illumination of a giant Christmas Tree.

For those guests wishing to stay at the park, Gardaland Hotel is offering three special packages over the period.

Port Aventura **Vilaseca, Tarragona, Spain**

This year's Christmas season at Port Aventura will take place from November 22 to January 6. Among the spectacular lighting, festive decorations and the daily shows created specifically for the season, guests will also be able to enjoy a host of festive attractions, as well as all the major rides (with the exception of the water rides)

which will be open.

A Christmas Market will be held in the Mediterrània area, inspired by the traditional Christmas markets from central Europe and featuring wooden stalls offering a host of Christmas treats. An ice sculptor will create amazing figures in ice and for those who want a bit more activity, an ice rink will be a feature of the México area. PortAventura will also install a huge snow tubing slide on the Great Wall of China, specially designed for children but suitable for adults too.

As it has done for every past Christmas season, the park will present a packed program of festive family entertainment. Musicals featuring acrobatic displays and spectacular outdoor ice-skating will take place alongside performances of live music, filling every corner of the park with popular yuletide tunes.

The China area's Gran Teatro will be the stage for the Regalo de Navidad (Christmas Present) show, while another

show will be El Bosque Encantado (The Enchanted Forest) where goblins, wizards and fairies will show visitors the secret shortcut that leads to Santa's home.

Tivoli Gardens **Copenhagen, Denmark**

Christmas in Tivoli opened for the first time in 1994, becoming the driver for tourism in Copenhagen in December and paving the way for a multitude of activities and smaller Christmas markets in and around Copenhagen. In 2013 the event lasted seven weeks and had 982,000 visitors.

This year Tivoli's Christmas season runs from November 15 to January 4, the first time it has operated until after New Year's Eve which is a popular time with tourists to see Copenhagen.

Up to a million fairy lights in trees and on buildings will dazzle visitors, as will the smell of Christmas foods, the many kilometers of spruce garlands and the small, decorative villages at Christmas in Tivoli. New in 2014 is a 2,000 square meter Alpine village in the central square which will, as per tradition, offer a variety of shops selling gifts, foods and traditional Christmas ornaments and candles. And from December 25 to 27 and December 31 to January 4 the Tivoli Fireworks Festival also takes place.

Tivoli's Nordic Christmas Village is situated just inside the main entrance gate, while on passing through the Nimb's dazzling white façade visitors then reach Tivoli's central square, where a new theme (still a secret at the time of writing) will greet them in 2014. Guests can then enter Quality Street with all its rides and games,

► See **HOLIDAYS**, page 8



Live entertainment (above left) will again be a major feature of the Christmas season at Port Aventura. Among the attractions visitors will be able to enjoy at the park, over the Christmas period, is this snow tubing ride. COURTESY PORTAVENTURA



Huss continues to enjoy success with 2014 project openings

Deliveries include first Condor 2G to Happy Valley Beijing and Pirate Ship to Djurs Sommerland

BREMEN, Germany — German ride manufacturer Huss Park Attractions GmbH has announced details of new ride projects for 2014 and beyond, with a wide range of installations being opened this year and many more confirmed for 2015 and into 2016 at parks around the world.

Among the newest attractions now in operation is a true classic ride from Huss originally produced as the Pirate Ship which recently opened at Djurs Sommerland in Nimtofte, Denmark. The new addition, which is themed as a Viking ship and has been named Drageskibet, is from the company's Classic line and accommodates up to 54 passengers. With moderate accelerations and motions it is a genuine family ride.

Drageskibet swings riders up to 65 feet in height at a 75 degree angle over a small lake in the newly created Vikingeland area. The ride's with detailed theming and decoration it is sure to become a popular landmark in this section of the park.

A second Pirate Ship is due to open later this year at Romon World in Ningbo, China. This particular model will again feature a special theme, on this occasion reflecting the concept of Pirates of the Caribbean, and will be another excellent example of how the detailed theming of the Pirate Ship rides can create a unique attraction with outstanding visual impact, creating a major draw for visitors. The attraction is part of a package of four new Huss rides operating at the park which also includes a Top Spin Suspended, a Giant Frisbee 40, both from the Huss thrill ride range, and a Break Dance 4 family ride.

June also witnessed the opening of the first Condor 2G (2nd Generation) attraction, at Happy Valley Beijing in China. The original Condor enjoyed much success with 30 examples being sold during the 1980s and '90s and

having been added to the company's active portfolio of products once again, with revised design elements, it is creating much interest among theme park operators and visitors.

The Happy Valley model features the familiar 101-foot-tall central tower structure with four main arms. Attached to these are seven, two-person gondolas that swing out as they rotate. The ride also features a rescue boat design and unique lighting concepts.

A second Huss Condor 2G attraction is due for opening in 2014/2015 in the Chinese Shandong Province, while looking further ahead to 2015, the company also has a number of new rides set to open during the year. These include a Top Spin Suspended for an as yet unnamed client in the Middle East and another Top Spin Suspended and a Sky Tower for undisclosed clients in China.

For delivery in 2015/16, Huss has also confirmed contracts for two Top Spin Suspended rides, both equipped with a water fountain feature, and a Giant Frisbee 40 for China, while due for delivery to the Middle East during this period is a King Kong ride, the sixth version of this family ride to be built and which will, as usual, incorporate a variety of special effects to enhance the experience.

"These many contracts and installations show we are enjoying continued success with our range of attractions throughout the world," noted Huss Park Attractions CEO Mirko J. Schulze. "We are particularly pleased with the interest shown in the Condor 2G, which has justified its reintroduction to our active portfolio of products, and the increased demand of our clients for highly themed Huss ride attractions with great visual impact. Especially here we can demonstrate our extensive experience in creating an outstanding interaction between reliable technique and excellent design."



The first Condor 2G (2nd Generation) attraction from Huss has now opened at Happy Valley Beijing in China and features a rescue boat design and unique lighting concepts. Huss Park Attractions GmbH has delivered a classic Pirate Ship ride themed as a Viking ship named Drageskibet at Djurs Sommerland in Denmark. COURTESY HUSS



At left, Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens has been running a Christmas season since 1994. Above, there will be plenty of shopping opportunities for visitors to Christmas in Tivoli. COURTESY TIVOLI GARDENS

►HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 7

and down at the lake area, the weeping willows on the bank will be dressed in fairy-lights to create a special ambience. And, of course, Father Christmas will be on hand to greet children and listen to their Christmas wishes.

Additionally, the Nut-

cracker opens on November 20 at the Tivoli Concert Hall. Tivoli's artistic director, Peter Bo Bendixen, has choreographed this production of the Christmas classic, which has sets and costumes designed by Queen Margrethe of Denmark. Performed by Tivoli Ballet Theatre the story has been adapted and now takes place in Copenhagen.

Gerstlauer supplying Blackpool Pleasure Beach with new Red Arrows Sky Force ride for 2015

BLACKPOOL, England — Blackpool Pleasure Beach is reaching for the skies with a new ride for the 2015 season. The 42-acre amusement park has joined forces with the world-famous Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, to launch a unique new attraction.

Preparing for deployment next spring, the new ride is a Sky Fly supplied by Germany's Gerstlauer. The ride's aircraft will provide an exhilarating experience like no other at the park. The pride of the Royal Air Force will now be represented on an attraction that allows the rider to take control of their own plane. Complete in Red Arrows livery, the ride will also feature its own control tower. To be placed in the shadow of the Big One roller coaster The 72-foot-high, 12-seat thriller will take guests on a 360-degree tour of the skies.

After touchdown, riders can check out a dedicated Red Arrows shop, which will feature exclusive merchandise and souvenirs designed for Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Deputy Managing Director of Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Nick Thompson, said: "We cannot wait to launch our new ride for the 2015 season. We are the first amusement park in the U.K. to work with the Red Arrows on

such an exciting project and we know it will be something unique for thrill-seekers to experience."

Managing Director of Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Amanda Thompson OBE, added: "The Red Arrows are a British institution so it was a perfect fit for the U.K.'s number one amusement park to work with them. They are an amazing sight to see when they are in the skies and I am certain our new ride will give our guests a unique thrill they will want to experience again and again."

Squadron Leader Ruth Shackleton, team manager of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, said: "The Red Arrows have enjoyed a long association with Blackpool and the Pleasure Beach during the team's 50-year history. The new Sky Force ride is a wonderful, and unique, means to continue this relationship and provides an exciting way for people to learn more about the Red Arrows, the Royal Air Force and the role the Service plays in protecting the U.K. The team are also thrilled the ride will take pride of place adjacent to the Big One. It is also fantastic that the north west of England will get to enjoy and play host to a permanent Red Arrows experience."



Blackpool Pleasure Beach has joined forces with the world-famous Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, to launch a unique new attraction. A Sky Fly supplied by Germany's Gerstlauer, the Red Arrows Sky Force will take flight when the British park opens for the 2015 season next spring. COURTESY BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH

Ski Dubai selects Gateway

GILBERTSVILLE, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems has announced its selection by Ski Dubai as the venue's new ticketing point of sale provider. An iconic attraction in the United Arab Emirates, Ski Dubai is an indoor ski resort in the Middle East owned by the Majid Al Futtaim Group. In addition to a wintry mountain-themed setting and five ski runs, including the world's first indoor black run, Ski Dubai is home to 24 King and Gentoo penguins.

The site's million plus annual visitors will enjoy an enhanced visitor experience with the implementation of Gateway's flagship point of sale solution, Galaxy. Skiers will have the option to purchase tickets onsite at the venue or online ahead of time using the venue's eGalaxy Web Store. In addition to front gate and consumer online sales, the venue will also employ Galaxy's Upsell module as well as group sales and an integrated business intelligence application.

The project, which is in tandem with Gateway Value Added Reseller, Prologic First, is scheduled to go live in early 2015.

Sally building haunted attraction at Gröna Lund in 2015

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — In April 2015, what is being billed as "the worst horror experiences of its kind" will debut at Gröna Lund. Dubbed House of Nightmares, the new attraction will be a one-of-a-kind walk through attraction where visitors pass through the old dark house filled with horrific nightmares.

To develop House of Nightmares, Gröna Lund is teaming up with Florida-based Sally Corporation, a leading creator of special effects and animatronic for over 35 years. "Together with Sally Corporation, Gröna Lund will create one of the worst horror experiences of its kind," said Peter Osbeck, ride manager at Gröna Lund.

Exactly what visitors will find in the house's various rooms will not be revealed ahead of time. Instead, guests will have to find their courage to step into the house next spring.

House of Nightmares backstory

Our dark story begins in 1953 in New Orleans, Louisiana (USA), where the noted scientist Dr. Morphio was conducting research into the human subconscious and the nature of dreams. It was at a time when television began to take its obvious place in people's living rooms and Dr. Morphio was already far ahead of his time. He created a television program called Dreamland, in



Sweden's Gröna Lund is teaming up with Florida-based Sally Corporation to create House of Nightmares, a new haunted walk through attraction slated to open next spring. To maintain the mystery, exactly what visitors will find in the house's various rooms will not be revealed ahead of time. COURTESY GRONA LUND

which he interpreted his guests' dreams...and nightmares.

The program was very popular and Dr. Morphio quickly became a well-known and respected television personality. But when he was at the peak of his career came the revelation that shocked everyone. It turned out that his research was profoundly unethical, illegal and inhumane. He had conducted experiments on human subjects where with forcible and brutal methods he tried to extract the dreams from their consciousness in order to bring them to life.

Dr. Morphio fled from the outraged American population and retreated to a secluded old

house near the Stockholm harbor. Unfazed by criticism, he continued his controversial and dangerous experiments hidden behind the house's facade. He documented everything on video, and it was rumored that he actually managed to create living beings out of his patients' worst nightmares. A couple of years ago, a documentary film team, hoping to learn the truth about Dr. Morphio and his terrible experiments, arrived at his secluded house. But the doctor had vanished without a trace. Instead, the team found something truly horrific. The rumors were true. The nightmares that the doctor had succeeded in

bringing to life were still lurking in the dark, infesting the house's rooms and hallways.

What happened to Dr. Morphio remains a mystery, but his house is still standing. No one knows what is waiting in there. Are you ready to come face-to-face with your worst nightmares? But be careful — the living nightmares might follow you home and invade your dreams...you may never sleep again!

House of Nightmares is currently under construction and will begin terrifying guests when Gröna Lund opens for the 2015 season next April.



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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Castaway Cove adding long awaited WhiteWater AquaLoop for 2015 — Page 15

Attendance sees eight percent jump over 2013

WWA Trade Show brings wave of innovation to Las Vegas

STORY: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The 34th annual World Waterpark Association (WWA) Symposium & Trade Show dove headlong into this fun-filled desert city on Oct. 27 — landing with a splash at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino in the middle of The Strip. According to WWA officials, it was one of the organization's biggest and best shows.

"We know that 2014 wasn't a perfect season for all our operators, yet we've heard from WWA members all over the world that they have big plans for the 2015 season and beyond," said Rick Root, president of the Overland Park, Kan.-based organization. "They brought their positive outlook to the WWA Show in spades and came together with fellow attendees to solve problems, craft solutions and get inspired."

Attracting more than 1,600 owners, operators, developers, suppliers and designers, the four-day event was exceptionally well-planned and scheduled to the hilt. Bracketing two bustling stretches of trade show floor time at the Paris on Tuesday, Oct. 28, and Wednesday, Oct. 29, were additional hours and days of professional development seminars and a pair of evening social gatherings. The latter took place amid party atmospherics at the Paris pool and Wet 'n' Wild Las Vegas, drawing about 700 guests and 400 guests, respectively.

This year, attendees came from parks large and small, public and private, indoor and outdoor, from all over the world. Active leisure mar-



The 34th annual WWA Symposium & Trade Show drew more than 1,600 attendees to the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, an eight percent increase over last year's event.

AT/GARY SLADE

kets were represented from 25 countries, including Argentina, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the U.S.

Not only was attendance up, but attendees generally were energized. "Engagement went through the roof this year," said Aleatha Ezra, WWA's director of park member development. "We had record turnout for our lunches and networking events — standing-room-only in many of our sessions — and we saw a 25 percent increase in attendee engagement across all our social media platforms during the week. The conversations were going on everywhere, at all times."

Indeed, perhaps more than ever, the WWA show was an opportunity for listen-

ing, learning and sharpening existing business know-how in all key industry areas. No less than 80 educational tracks, workshops, breakout sessions and networking opportunities — ranging from lifeguard instruction courses to employee training and attraction marketing strategy seminars — were offered to the public sector or tailored to members of WWA committees. Several keynote addresses by industry experts rounded out the event's wealth of informational riches.

"After operating a water park for 40 years, I know it's important to stay current," said Kathy Siggers, owner of Wild Water Adventure Park in Clovis, Calif. "You have to be able to reinvent yourself and stay abreast of the latest best practices, and that's what this show offers."

Amusement Today welcomed many industry friends, old and new, at the WWA gathering. Of the 350-plus exhibiting companies presenting

products and services in the 100,000-square-foot, sold-out Paris Las Vegas Convention Center, there were numerous innovators and standouts.

Unveiling what was likely the most talked-about attraction in the exhibit hall, **Avalanche Waterslides** (avalanchewaterslides.com), in partnership with British Columbia, Canada-based **Skyturtle Technologies Ltd.**, presented photos and video of SkyCaliber — a prototype free-falling, looping tube slide that has been built at the company's Carthage, Mo., headquarters.

Engineering designer Lance Fisher, president of Skyturtle and formerly a designer with WhiteWater West Industries, said a "nightmare" was the origin of his limits-pushing, record-breaking concept for SkyCaliber, which drops a single passenger in a specially designed capsule from atop a 90-foot tower straight down into a 30-foot vertical loop, briefly pulling a g-force as high as six and a speed as high as 52 mph (as of latest testing).

"I had been working long days designing a new drop capsule for Avalanche Waterslides," said Fisher, "and I ended up dreaming about it at night. In one dream I was standing in my newly designed capsule, but for some reason the drop was straight down. Not wanting to perform a cannonball down a tube, I reached for the sides of the capsule and held on for my life. But being a nightmare, the capsule broke off the tower and I plummeted down the drop inside of it."

On a less hair-raising note, Jalisco, Mexico-based **Fibrart** (fibrart.com.mx), a maker of waterslides for more than 30

years, was on hand with a large catalogue of family-friendly products. The company, in fact, got to show off one of its most recent projects — an elaborate kiddie play structure at the newly opened, 23-acre Cowabunga Bay water park in nearly Henderson, Nev. — to 175 WWA show attendees who opted to tour the property on Oct. 27.

Another Mexico-based international water activity innovator, **Aquakita** (aquakita.com) of Escobedo, Nuevo León, displayed large, colorful sections of its edgy, adrenaline-pumping slides for a "hands-on" sales approach — one that allowed representative Alex Gryzinski to point out proudly the thorough front-and-back protective coating that improves the slides' durability against not just water, but all weather.

Overseas water park equipment supplier **Arihant** (arihant.com), of Thane, India, offered catalogues chock-full of customizable themed play structures, body slides, raft courses and wave pools. "We also provide design expertise and installation support, and our equipment adheres to ASTM quality standards," said Mangesh Taksale, deputy general manager. The company has several leisure specialty divisions and, with over 375 projects in 45 countries, has been plying its trade successfully for 36 years.

Brandishing the slogan "Join the Splash Park Revolution!," **Empex Water Toys** (watertoys.com) showed event attendees its skill in both designing water play areas from scratch and extensively mak-

► See WWA, page 12



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►WWA

Continued from page 11

ing over existing ones. With festive, high-color, family-friendly products including water cannons, water rotors, aqua jets, kiddie slides and water bikes, the Ontario, Canada-based company fabricates its inventory from composite and specialty plastics sealed with a five-coat process utilizing automotive polyurethane and a special multi-coat clear finish. "Interactivity is key to the playground," said Wyeth Tracy, president of Empex, sharing vivid photos of installations for clients in Brazil, Greece, Japan and Spain, as well as in North America.

On a smaller yet no less participatory scale, Torrance-Calif.-based **Big Squirt!** (big-squirt.com) was on hand with its Big Squirt! Water Toy and various park accessories, including a water-spouting giant fill station, a mobile sales cart, a banner-waving stationary cone display and several target-based, multi-player games with carnival, underwater and Wild West themes. Launched by former Hughes Aircraft engineer Joel M. Schafer in his Hermosa Beach living room in the late 1980s, the award-winning company has brought new forms of water fun to millions.

Taking water-based interactivity to new heights, **Everlast Climbing** (everlastclimbing.com) was extolling its easy-to-set-up, indoor / outdoor Kersplash Pool Climbing Wall. The product, available in bright-color and clear panel styles with ergonomic handhold, is made from materials that are UV-, chlorine- and corrosion-resistant. "The Kersplash Crystal Clear climbing wall complements any aquatic center and offers visibility to areas behind the wall," said Sarah Howard, marketing manager, noting that units had been installed by clients in Florida, Minnesota and New Mexico. Headquartered in Mendota Heights, Minn., the company has been servicing the climbing industry



for 25 years.

OpenAire (openaire.com), with offices in Ontario, Canada, and Cedarburg, Wis., has raised the roof on aquatic facilities even farther. Founded in 1989, the designer, manufacturer and installer of aesthetically designed, energy-efficient retractable roof enclosures and operable skylights has completed more than 1,000 projects in water parks, resorts and community centers around the globe. "Unlike steel framing, our maintenance-free, thermally broken aluminum framing system stands up to the moisture and chemicals of aquatic atmospheres," said Dave Bolwerk, vice president of sales and marketing. "Our installations never need to be repainted."

Unfortunately, the same can't be said of most fiberglass waterslides, which can become heavily oxidized, faded and chipped after years of use and exposure to the elements. **Safe Slide Restoration** (safeslides.com) addressed this problem for WWA show visitors, describing services and products designed to bring new life to old equipment and reduce equipment maintenance costs. With more than 15 years of experience working for some of the largest water parks in North America, the company



Everlast Climbing's Kersplash Pool Product (left) and Wyeth Tracy of Empex Water Toys (above) promoted interactivity, while images of Avalanche Waterslides' looping SkyCali-ber (right) wowed the floor. COURTESY EVERLAST CLIMBING, AVALANCHE WATERSLIDES; (ABOVE) AT/DEAN LAMANNA

applies exterior coatings that provide longer-term color and gloss retention as well as adhesion superior to standard epoxy / urethane coatings.

Also combining safety and aesthetics, and artistry, **AquaStar Pool Products** (aquastarpoolproducts.com) introduced a new pool and playground deck concept called Fillable Friends. The white, prefabricated, mosaic-like stencils — available in angel fish, dolphin, palm tree, footprint and other fun and attractive shapes — are set in their desired positions before rubberized safety coatings and other surface treatments are applied. "When the surrounding surface dries, you can then fill the stencils with plaster, pebble, glass beads, concrete or different colors of the same surrounding surface coating," said company spokesman Jamey Clark. "It's less expensive than creating designs with tile and a great way to enhance your decks and walkways."

Stepping into the realm of highly practical safety solutions for water parks, amusement parks, stadiums and other outdoor venues, **Earth Networks** (earthnetworks.com) created convention buzz with WeatherBug — its brand of comprehensive severe weather intelligence for

weather threat planning, detection and response. "We have the world's largest weather network, with 10,000 stations exclusive to Earth Networks-WeatherBug that update every two seconds," noted Jesus Ferro, senior marketing manager. "We also have the world's largest lightning network. It's all about getting out the earliest possible warning for the potential of severe weather."



Fortunately, weather is rarely a concern in Palm Springs, Calif., where WWA's 35th annual Symposium & Trade Show will be held October 20-23, 2015. The event will be headquartered at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel, which is connected to the desert resort city's convention center.

• www.waterparks.org



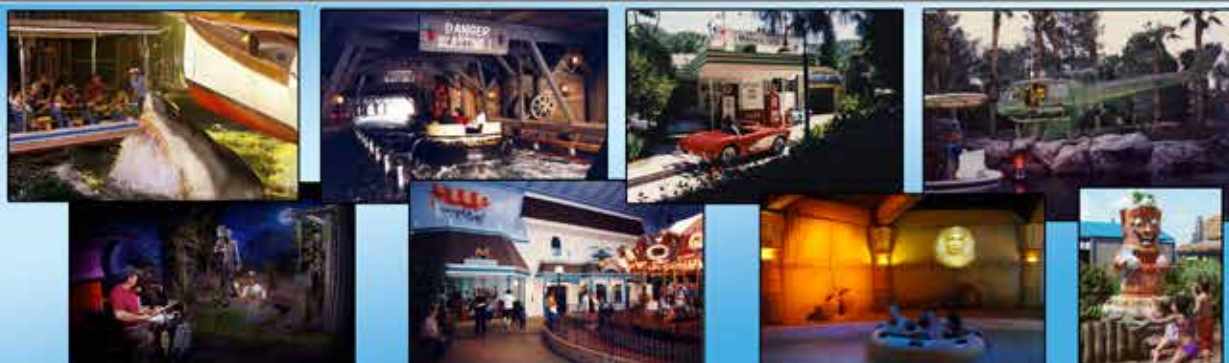
Arihant's Mangesh Taksale (above) discussed his company's array of equipment and services. AquaStar Pool Products' new Fillable Friends surface stencils (left) added a decorative touch to decks.

COURTESY AQUASTAR POOL PRODUCTS; (ABOVE) AT/DEAN LAMANNA

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NEWS SPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert, jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Pennsylvania's **Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark**, in the famous Pocono Mountains vacation area, opened its doors in October to offer city officials, business owners and members of the media a sneak preview of what will be the largest ski in/ski out indoor waterpark hotel in the U.S., and the largest indoor waterpark in the Northeast.

Owners of the half-century old **Camelback Resort**, together with development and management company **Stand Rock Hospitality**, rolled out the red carpet and handed out hard hats before guiding tours through the 533,000 square-foot, \$163 million Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark.

Once complete in March 2015, the eight-story Camelback Lodge will feature 453 guest suites offered in 24 suite configurations ranging from loft fireplace suites, one and two bedroom executive suites, and family suites with bunk beds, gift shops, adult and kids spas, multiple eateries and three sit-down restaurants, including the ski-in/ski-out Trails End Tavern near the Sullivan Chair Lift.

The 170,000 square-foot family adventure center will include the Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark, which will feature seven pools, 13 waterslides, and a multitude of thrilling water attractions. Uniquely designed to be unlike any other indoor waterpark in the USA, Aquatopia will host a combination of favorites such as a wave pool, lazy river and **Flowrider** surfing simulator, as well as industry-first slides such as the Venus SlydeTrap, a family raft ride that combines three waterslide experiences into one slide. The **Arcadia Family Adventure Center** will offer two levels of themed activities and challenges including more than 100 video, interactive and ticket redemption games, ropes courses and rock climbing for adults and kids, mini-golf, black light laser tag, bowling and an arts and crafts center.

The city of El Paso, Texas, is looking at two proposals for a combination water park, adventure park and athletic complex on a 39-acre site owned by the city. Both propos-

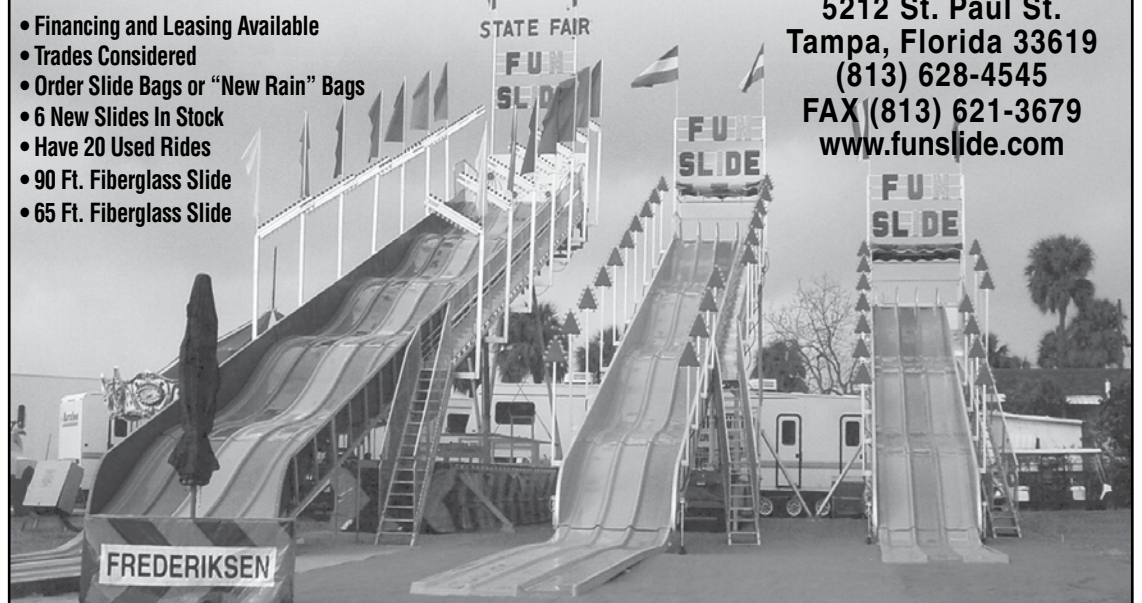
als are from companies that have successful operations in the state of Texas. Dallas-based **Harvest Family Entertainment**, is well-known for operating seven **Hawaiian Falls** water parks in the state. The second proposal is from **Fieldhouse USA**, which built and operates a huge, indoor, multi-sport facility in Frisco, Texas. However, the two companies may not have to compete against each other. High-level management ties exist within the two companies. With the complex proposal calling for multiple facilities, Harvest can build and operate the water park, Fieldhouse USA the athletic complex, and the adventure park could go to either or become a collaborative effort, or even involve a third party. The city has proposed \$20 million for the project but has not disclosed how the city might finance the development.

The owners of **Wet'n'Wild Waterworld** in Anthony, Texas, located 25 miles from El Paso, were also interested in submitting a proposal, but felt the city's Request for Proposal (RFP) was narrowly drawn and specifically written to exclude companies other than Harvest Entertainment. Wet'n'Wild also claims they were caught off guard when the city issued the RFP on July 1 with a short, 60-day RFP period. After considering those two factors, plus the fact that Wet'n'Wild Waterworld was in the midst of an expansion, the decision was made to not submit a proposal.

A five-acre splash pad in **Martin Luther King Park**, Buffalo, New York, is now running at full tilt. After opening last year, the splash pad suffered from low water pressure indicating that a leak had developed in a water supply line leading to the park. The city felt that the leak should have been corrected during construction as tests showed the system was only operating at 60 percent efficiency, but the splash park was opened as planned. At the end of this season the repairs were made and the system's 300 fountain heads were running at 100 percent capacity. The park was then converted for winter use until next spring.

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Castaway Cove water park to open 2015 season with new AquaLoop

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — Now that the city of Wichita Falls found a way of letting the water flow into Castaway Cove water park without depleting city water sources, park management is ready to debut its new slide to guests for the 2015 season.

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

AquaLoop/
Castaway Cove
Wichita Falls, Texas

Ride

A 360-degree
looping water slide

Height/Speed/ Freefall Height

Tower Height: 60 feet
Loop Height: 35 feet
Speed: 40 mph
Freefall: 35-feet

Supplier

WhiteWater West
Industries; Richmond,
B.C., Canada

Castaway Cove will open its season next May with a new WhiteWater West Industries' AquaLoop.

"There are a lot of water parks in Texas," said Kent Lemasters, CEO and president, AquaticAmusement Management Group (AMG), the company that manages the park for the city. "But, this will be the first AquaLoop in Texas."

The 360-degree looping waterslide has been on the grounds at Castaway Cove, stored in crates. Plans were to have the new slide up for the 2014 season, but the extreme drought in that area of Texas put the installation on hold.

At the beginning of this year, it was unsure whether the park would open for the 2014 season. That was when the decision was made not to install the new slide.

But, city officials contracted with a company to haul well water to the park throughout the season. Lemasters said the cost of hauling the water was just under \$70,000, but that was better than closing the park for the season.

Lemasters said they are hoping for rain this winter, but, even so, they know how to get water to the park.

So, up goes the AquaLoop.

"We will have it open the first of May, 2015," Lemasters said. "We will break ground early next year."

The site of the new ride is already fairly flat, he said, so a lot of excavation won't be necessary.

Castaway Cove's AquaLoop will have a 60 foot tall tower, with a loop height of 35 feet. When launched from the platform, riders will take a 37-foot free fall before going into and around the 360-degree loop.

Lemasters said they are planning a large marketing campaign to introduce the slide to the community. They plan to utilize billboards, television, radio, direct mail, social media and even bus wraps. They plan to reach out to potential patrons at a distance of a 75-mile radius.

"It will be a very visual attraction and we want people to see," he said.

—Pam Sherborne



This is the new attraction for the 2015 season at Castaway Cove water park, Wichita Falls, Texas. The AquaLoop by WhiteWater West Industries will be up and ready by next May. AquaticAmusement Management Group (AMG), who manages this city-owned water park, plans an extensive marketing campaign to go along with opening this very visual attractions. COURTESY AMG/WHITEWATER WEST

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PARKS & CARNIVALS

► Wildlife World Zoo expanding ride mix — Pages 22 & 23 / Carnival News — Pages 25-30

U.S. parks offering an abundance of holiday celebrations

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Editor's note: In it's annual Christmas editorial feature, Amusement Today takes a random look at parks across the U.S., and what they are offering to guests in 2014. And as is tradition, AT lists several first-timers on this year's Christmas roundup. To have your park or facility included in next year's roundup, please email psherborne@amusementtoday.com.

From millions of twinkling holiday lights to daily parades, ice sculptures in warm south Texas, a 30-foot tall holiday tree made from Legos and Duplos to a water park transforming into a winter wonderland with daily new snow and sledding, amusement and theme parks are offering a medley of holiday entertainment for the 2014 season.

Here is just a sampling of what parks across the country are offering this Christmas season.

Silver Dollar City Branson, Mo.

Silver Dollar City lights up its brightest season with a new \$1 million light parade this year. Called Rudolph's Holly Jolly Christmas Light Parade, and being led by "Rudolph, the most famous reindeer of all," the parade is debuting on the 50th anniversary of the television special by the same time.

The Silver Dollar City holiday celebration — An Old Time Christmas — began Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 30.

The new evening parade has Rudolph as the Grand Marshall. There also are nine musical lighted floats illuminated with 100,000 ultra bright LED lights. In addition, it is accompanied by 33 colorful costumed characters.

The parade begins daily following the lighting of the five-



Silver Dollar City's An Old Time Christmas presents a new feature this year, Rudolph's Holly Jolly Christmas Light Parade, led by the red-nosed reindeer. This parade is added to the line-up of musical productions, a five-story Christmas tree and more than five million lights. The celebration began Nov. 1 and will run through Dec. 30.
COURTESY SILVER DOLLAR CITY

CHRISTMAS SPOTLIGHT 2014

story special effects Christmas Tree on the park's square. The towering icon is a centerpiece and sports over 250,000 colorful LED lights while offering a light and sound show synchronized to holiday music. The lighting of the tree begins at dusk.

Silver Dollar City's holiday celebration also features two musical productions, over 100 craftsmen creating holiday items and seasonal food offerings.

When temperatures remain 42 degrees or above, guests may ride all the park's coasters and rides.

Moody Gardens Galveston, Texas

Santa made a special appearance at Moody Gardens in October to announce the debut of Moody Gardens' Ice Land: Ice Sculptures featuring SpongeBob

SquarePants.

This new addition to the annual Festival of Lights and other holiday attractions at Moody Gardens, that began Nov. 15 and runs through Jan. 3, boasts this ice exhibition is the only ice exhibition on the Gulf of Mexico.

Moody Gardens had a team of 20 professional ice carvers from Harbin, China, to come to the park and take 900 tons of ice, transforming the ice into works of art ranging from holiday-themed sculptures to a wide range of scenes featuring the beloved underwater characters from SpongeBob SquarePants.

And because Galveston's winter temperatures average in the 60s to low 70s for highs to 50s for lows, park officials moved in a 28,000-square-foot insulated tent structure onto the property that is keeping the sculptures chilled at nine degrees.

► See CHRISTMAS, page 18



Moody Gardens, Galveston, Texas, began its holiday celebration this year on Nov. 15. It will run through Jan. 3. New this year is the exhibition Ice Land: Ice Sculptures featuring SpongeBob SquarePants. A team of 20 professional ice sculptors from China carved the sculptures that are being housed in an insulated tent, kept at a chilling nine degrees.
COURTESY MOODY GARDENS



The Beach Water Park, Mason, Ohio, has been transformed into Beach Mountain for this winter season using snow made by SnowMagic Inc., which has a patented Infinite Crystals Snowmaking (ICS) technology that makes snow in a controlled unit and distributes the snow to recreational surfaces in any direction up to 600 feet. The winter season at the park began Nov. 21 and will run through March 1. Although not actually offering holiday celebrations, this winter wonderland of snow tubing down 400-foot long lanes has extended the Beach Water Park's season all year.

COURTESY BEACH WATER PARK

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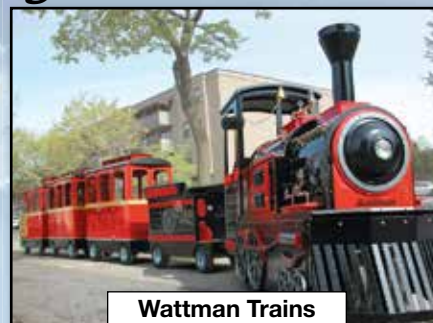
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►CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 17

Moody Gardens is lighted with more than one million lights as part of its Festival of Lights. Also being offered is ice skating on the area's only outdoor skating rink, musical entertainment and the thrilling Arctic Ice Slide.

Hersheypark Hershey, Pa.

The magic of the holidays comes to life at Hersheypark with a variety of activities, musical productions, shopping, and, of course, more than 30 rides.

Festivities began Nov. 22 and will run through Jan. 1.

Hersheypark's Christmas Candylane dons more than two million twinkling lights, the rides, festive decorations, and Hershey's Product Characters decked out in their holiday best.

New for the popular musical productions is a partnership formed between Hersheypark and Hershey Lodge (divisions of Hershey Entertainment & Resorts) announced with Emmy award-winning New York City-based entertainment firm RWS and Associates, which has created the 2014 holiday stage productions. Park officials announced the partnership in October for the musicals being held at Hershey Lodge and The Music Box Theatre at Hersheypark as part of the annual holiday celebrations.

Hersheypark also offers a drive-through attraction for the holidays. Called Hershey Sweet Lights, A Holiday Drive-Thru Spectacular, this attraction offers 600 illuminated and animated displays.

Beach Water Park Mason, Ohio

A September 19th ribbon cutting at The Beach Water Park celebrated an innovative development in recreation: The Beach Mountain, a snow tubing and snow play destination. Wielding over-sized ribbon-cutting scissors, VIP guests, some of them in sandals, hiked onto a mini-glacier in The Beach Mountain snow-play area.

"We invited business leaders and the media to our snow event in September to demonstrate the capability of snow-making at The Beach Mountain," said Natalie Dunlap, vice president of marketing.

The Beach Mountain is working in conjunction with SnowMagic, Inc., which has a patented Infinite Crystals Snow-making (ICS) technology that makes snow in a controlled unit and distributes the snow to rec-



Christmas Town, the holiday Christmas celebration at Busch Gardens Tampa, began Nov. 28 and will continue through Dec. 31, on 23 select dates. The park offers a variety of holiday cheer and activities. New this year is that entrance into the festivities is included in the annual pass.

COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA



Legoland Florida celebrates the holidays weekends in December and ends with a Kids' New Year special event on Dec. 31. Among some of the features of the celebration is the 30-foot tall Christmas tree made with 270,000 Legos and Duplos. Guests also are able to build their own Lego creations. COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA

reational surfaces in any direction up to 600 feet. It is enabling guests at the Beach Mountain to slide down 400-foot long tubing lanes.

"As we showed today, The Beach Mountain can make snow and maintain snow on a summer day," said SnowMagic president Albert Bronander who was on-site for the media event in September.

"We work with venues throughout the country from San Diego to Miami," he said. "The Beach Mountain is creating a place where families can enjoy a winter-wonderland of active, outdoor fun without having to spend all day in the car; I think people will come back again and again throughout the season."

The Beach Mountain opened to the public on Nov. 21. Since it hasn't necessarily been dubbed a holiday celebration, park officials are running The Beach Mountain activities through March 1, creating an entire other season for the water park.

Busch Gardens Tampa, Fla.

This year's holiday celebration at Busch Gardens, called

Christmas Town, has transformed the park into a nighttime holiday wonderland of wintry surprises and all things Christmas. The park's festivities opened Nov. 28 and will continue through Dec. 31, on 23 select dates.

Guests are offered special entertainment, live music, festive treats, holiday shopping and over a million twinkling lights all over the park.

And, beginning this year, Busch Gardens' Christmas Town is included in the annual pass.

Legoland Florida Winter Haven, Fla.

Legoland's annual Christmas Bricktacular and Kids' New Year's Eve Bash celebrations kick off the first of December and runs weekends through the remainder of the month.

From holiday-themed Lego builds and models to fireworks displays that light up the night to snowfall inside the park, Legoland Florida is offering an abundance of family-friendly activities.

Christmas Bricktacular activities include: Lego Santa and
► See CHRISTMAS, page 20



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►CHRISTMAS

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Reindeer Models; the Lego 30-foot tall Christmas Tree that uses 270,000 forest green Legos and Duplos; Lego Model Build Activity; Lego Santa Scavenger Hunt, and Lego Santa and Lego Toy Soldier Characters.

Along with all the special events, the holiday festival also offers over 50 rides and attractions.

The park wraps up the month-long celebration with Kids' New Year's Eve Bash on Dec. 31, featuring a Lego brick drop at 7 p.m. midnight KST, (Kid Standard Time) to bring in the New Year.

Cliff's Amusement Park Albuquerque, N.M.

As the 2013 summer season was coming to a close at Cliff's Amusement Park, park officials saw an opportunity to extend park operations into the winter by adding a Christmas event to the park.

"We had seen other amusement parks across the country have great success by opening for the Christmas season, and

we felt that Cliff's Amusement Park could do the same and offer an experience unlike any other in our market," said Lance Smith, director of marketing.

It was no easy feat, he said.

"We partnered with a local landscaping company to transform our park with hundreds of thousands of lights that we meticulously hung to make the park a beautiful holiday display like no other," Smith said.

Park officials also converted the park's A.R.M./Larson Cliffhanger ride into a 120-foot tall Christmas tree. The thousands of lights put on the tree were synchronized to holiday music. The tree was so tall, it could be seen for miles around, which helped draw guests.

Smith said they had no idea what the attendance would be for the first year. It exceeded expectations so much that park officials ended up adding additional lighting, opening additional food stands and operating additional rides in the areas of the park that were going to be closed for the winter.

"Opening additional areas of the park, not only alleviated the problems we encountered



This is the second year for a Magical Christmas at Cliff's Amusement Park, Albuquerque, N.M. Last year, attendance exceeded all expectations and resulted in park officials having to open additional sections, as well as up additional food concessions. The festivities began Nov. 28 and run throughout December on select dates.

COURTESY CLIFF'S AMUSEMENT PARK

with the higher than expected attendance, but enhanced the overall experience for our guests," Smith said.

So, as planning for this second year of holiday festivities got underway, park officials began tweaking their 2014 Magical Christmas.

The park still opened for the holiday season on Black Friday, which was Nov. 28 this year, but they decided to open only on Fridays and Saturdays the first two weekends of December, then expand into Thursday evenings as Christmas approaches.

The park is operating 15 out of the 23 rides on the property. Weather constraints and routine off season maintenance are the primary reasons for not operating all rides.

In addition, park officials took a section of the park to build Santa's workshop, where guests can visit Santa Claus, take pictures, and share their desires for Christmas morning.

The Cliffhanger is converted once again and acts like a beacon bringing guests to the park.

Also being provided are many seasonal food and beverages as well as fire-pits throughout the grounds to keep the guests warm.

Santa's Village Jefferson, N.H.

In its 60th year of operation, Santa's Village is offering a new show for the 2014 Christmas celebration. The new show is in 3-D and is titled A Tinkerdoodle Christmas.

Guests are also finding thousands of holiday lights and colorful light ribbons throughout the park, so hanging around after dusk is a good idea.

Kids can feed Santa's reindeer in the barn, visit Santa at his home lounging in his big green chair and decorate homemade gingerbread cookies.

Fourteen holiday-themed rides are open, including the Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree swings, Santa's Express Train, The Great Humbug Adventure through Scrooge's House, Santa's Chimney Drop to experience how Santa feels when he drops down the chimney and the Skyway Sleigh Monorail to soar through the tree tops on a sleigh monorail.

The holiday festivities began Nov. 22 and is continuing until Dec. 21 on select dates.

Santa's Workshop North Pole, Colo.

In a charming mountain town in the Rocky Mountains, those wanting to enjoy the lights and sounds of Christmas can do so at Santa's Workshop. And, they can do so at North Pole, Colo.

Signature attractions at Santa's Workshop include the always-frozen North Pole and the 1919 Band Organ, which entertains visitors with holiday tunes. There are more than 25 rides operating for all ages.

Highlights include the small Candy Cane Coaster, a 60-foot high Ferris wheel, the Peppermint Slide where families slide around a peppermint stick, Santa's Train which takes

guests along the edge of the park, and the Christmas Tree Ride where kids fly around a Christmas tree.

Guests can take a break from the rides and enjoy a magic show or enjoy Elmer the Elf show and the Chris Moose show, featuring Christmas songs, all of which run multiple times daily.

Six Flags Parks

With the addition of Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia, Calif., and Six Flags Over Georgia, Atlanta, there are now five Six Flags parks across the country offering Holiday in the Park festivities. All but one Six Flags Over Georgia kicked off celebrations on Nov. 28. The Georgia park opened for the holiday season on Nov. 22.

And, even though Six Flags Great Escape, Queensbury, N.Y., is closed, the adjacent Six Flags Great Escape Lodge does celebrate with carolers, shows and other seasonal offerings through Dec. 28.

Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington, closes the holiday celebration on Dec. 30. Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo, Calif., Six Flags Magic Mountain, Six Flags Over Georgia, and Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio, all close Jan. 4.

Guests visiting the parks can expect to view hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights, sledding on snow, holiday shows and an array of open rides and attractions, musical entertainment and show productions, hands-on crafts, seasonal foods and holiday shopping.

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New rides coming to Phoenix Metro attraction

Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park gets bigger, wilder

STORY: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LITCHFIELD PARK, Ariz. — Less than 10 months after marking its 30th year of operation with the debut of an all-new, 15-acre safari section, Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park has broken ground on yet another 15-acre parcel that will showcase a mostly steel breed of “animal”: family rides.

Wildlife World’s \$3 million Safari Park investment earlier this year — the attraction’s largest expansion since its construction and opening of Arizona’s first public aquarium in 2008 — was but a warm-up to the \$6 million it is lavishing on its latest growth spurt, which will see the addition of four new rides, several exhibit buildings and a Mexican food café with indoor / outdoor seating. It also will increase the developed acreage of the roughly 115-acre property, which lies on the western edge of metropolitan Phoenix, to 95.



“Our new rides section will occupy about half of the half-mile of frontage we have along the new Loop 303 freeway,” said a very enthusiastic Mickey Ollson, owner and director of Wildlife World. “Our park is six miles north of Interstate 10, where the 303 has an interchange. It’s great visibility for us.”

The new rides, tentatively set to open in November 2015, include a family coaster from Chance Rides; a 650-foot-long Soaring Eagle zip line from Logan, Utah-based industry innovator Stan Checketts; a Vertigo swing ride from A.R.M., Inc.; and a Flying Scooters ride from Larson International, Inc. Concrete footers for the family coaster were being poured as *Amusement Today* went to press.

Chance also has supplied Wildlife World’s most recently completed improvement — a new 24-gauge C.P. Huntington Train capable of carrying 36-40 passengers (it replaced a 16-gauge train built in 1996 by J&R Railroad). Called the African Safari Train, it rolls



Wildlife World Zoo owner and director Mickey Ollson shows off his new Chance C.P. Huntington Train. The park has just broken ground on a \$6 million, 15-acre ride expansion for 2015. COURTESY WILDLIFE WORLD ZOO, AQUARIUM & SAFARI PARK

through eight acres of tree-dotted plains and affords guests an up-close look at a variety of exotic wild animals roaming freely within several large areas separated by remote-controlled gates.

As Ollson described it, there isn’t a dull moment during the 10-minute narrated journey.

“Passengers see African crested porcupines and meerkats,” he said. “They pass African antelope and ostriches, cranes, African brown hornbills and some African storks. As the train comes out of the African Safari area it comes around our petting zoo, which has deer, llamas, pygmy goats and turkeys, and next to that, there’s an exhibit where the kids can go in and mingle with African spurred tortoises.”

Sloppin’ the hogs

Ollson himself, having mingled with critters on a business level for 40 years, has been something of a Doctor Doolittle for most of his life. Growing up in Phoenix on adjoining properties owned by his parents and grandparents, he received his first pets — a pair of ducks — at age six from his grandfather, who also raised chickens and German shepherds. Ollson’s dad had a koi pond and a couple of parakeets, which had already piqued young Mickey’s interest in animals.

“They’d always ask me what I wanted for Christmas or my birthday, and I’d say, ‘Anything alive,’ he recalled. “My ducks had babies. And then I got some other birds and I

raised chickens, parakeets, love birds, cockatiels and finches. I had a few tropical fish aquariums, plus a pet alligator I got when I was about 10 years old that grew to about four feet after six or seven years.”

Ollson’s childhood menagerie gave way to the call of the teenage wild in high school. He sold his backyard bird collection, bought a car and backed away from raising critters for a few years — until a friend showed him he could make money raising rabbits and guinea pigs, which were a growing segment of the pet market.

While attending college as a business and marketing / advertising major in the early 1960s, Ollson signed a contract with pet giant Hartz Mountain Corporation to raise 125 guinea pigs a week at \$1.50 each, and it proved a viable way to augment his \$1.25/hour income pumping gas at a service station.

“My friends kidded me about raising the guinea pigs,” he said. “We’d be out at the lake in the afternoon and I had to get back home for feeding time, so they’d say, ‘Mick has to go slop the hogs.’ But I was making damn good money!” The ribbing stopped when Ollson had saved enough to buy a Corvette.

After graduating from Arizona State University in 1965 and settling into his job as a junior high school teacher, Ollson bought five acres in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale and returned to his hobby of raising birds — this time, more exotic species that could be

sold to zoos.

“Back in the 1970s, zoos weren’t real good at raising animals,” he said. “The mentality at the time was, ‘If it dies, we’ll just import another one.’ Well, suddenly, with the Endangered Species Act and other legislation being passed, it got harder and more expensive to import animals, so zoos turned to domestic breeders. And I was breeding cranes, swans, parrots and rare pheasants, among other things.”

Ollson traded some of his birds for other animals, such as llamas, kangaroos, camels and zebras. “I needed more room, so I looked at land further out on the west side of Phoenix and, in March of 1974, completed the purchase of 30 acres. It was very remote, but it was in the path of progress.”

The first year, Ollson planted about 450 shade trees

on the property and built barns for the animals and aviaries for the birds. In 1982, he bought another 10 adjoining acres — at which point friends encouraged him to open a zoo.

“They said, ‘You have more birds and animals out there than most zoos. People would pay you to see your animals. After 17 or 18 years of teaching junior high, I was getting a little burned out.’”

Ollson obtained zoning clearances and a permit, and in 1984, Wildlife World Zoo was born.

Igniting animal passions

The public attraction began modestly, opening with a 1,200-square-foot public entrance building housing a gift shop and restrooms. This structure was turned into the park’s first indoor exhibit, with

► **See WILDLIFE, page 23**



Ride placement at the park maximizes views of the star animal attractions for guests. The Skyride (top) glides over the Arabian oryx area, while the Safari Park Tram visits with the Beisa oryx.

COURTESY WILDLIFE WORLD ZOO, AQUARIUM & SAFARI PARK



Wildlife World Zoo has varied habitats showcasing exotic birds and animals, including aquarium reef environments and rocky pools for marine mammals. COURTESY WILDLIFE WORLD ZOO, AQUARIUM & SAFARI



►WILDLIFE

Continued from page 22

18 small aquariums containing unusual creatures like an electric eel, piranhas and small sharks, when a larger entrance building and gift shop were built in 1988.

"When we opened our large aquarium five years ago, we remodeled the original building into an animal nursery. And it still has the restrooms," Ollson said with a laugh.

With a 16-gauge train ride operating successfully in Wildlife World since 1996, 2000 became an important year for amusement additions as a carousel from Carousels USA (aka San Antonio Roller Works) was installed and a pontoon boat ride was added to the zoo's Australian section.

"The challenge with putting rides in a zoo is to have them provide views of the animals," Ollson said. "If you can place them close to the animals and your guests can view the animals from them, you will really up the attendance and ridership on your rides."

This approach is especially evident in the integration of Wildlife World's later ride additions, including the Skyride (2003), which carries guests over the animal areas, and the Log Flume Ride (2009), which winds among islands populated by monkeys and exotic birds and travels through an acrylic tunnel inside the aquarium — providing "underwater" views of South Pacific reef fish before ascending its 35-foot-tall lift. Both rides were

from SkyTrans Mfg., LLC, of Contoocook, N.H.

"We were the pioneer, along with SkyTrans, in getting chairlifts in zoos," noted Ollson. "Now this kind of ride is in about 10 zoos in North America, including zoos in Omaha and Tampa."

Wildlife World also has three indoor / outdoor cafés throughout the park, in addition to Dillon's Restaurant, a Kansas City-style barbecue eatery and bar inside the aquarium complex.

Ollson himself seemed surprised at how much his operation, which is accredited by the Zoological Association of America and today employs 70 (including two veterinarians), has grown.

"I'm extremely grateful for the three decades of support from our hundreds of thousands of guests and visiting students each year," he said. "They've made our tremendous growth and demonstrated commitment to ever-improving animal well-being in a family-friendly environment possible."

•www.wildlifeworld.com

Kings Island adding two rides and other improvements for 2015 season

MASON, Ohio — Two new family rides, the largest Starbucks store in the Tri-State, and other improvements are all part of Kings Island's plan for next summer.

The first of the new rides is Woodstock Gliders, a classic Flying Scooters ride from Larson International. The ride features eight two-person planes that glide freely above the ground. As the planes begin to rotate, they will fan out over a large area. Each plane has a stationary rear wing and a moveable front wing which allows the guest to control the flight and alter their ride experience from mild to wild.

Woodstock Gliders is similar to the Flying Eagles, a popular former Kings Island ride that entertained more than 12 million guests during its 32 years of operation from 1972 to 2004.

The second new ride is Snoopy's Space Buggies from Zamperla, an attraction designed for children of all ages to enjoy with their parents or grandparents. Six four-seat vehicles will bounce up and



New for 2015 at Kings Island will be two ride additions at Planet Snoopy kid's area. They include Snoopy's Space buggies (Zamperla) and Woodstock Eagles (Larson).

COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

down while rotating in a circle.

The new rides will be located next to each other in the 14-time, award-winning Planet Snoopy kids' area of the park.

Starbucks will be relocated from its current location at the end of International Street

to the opposite side near the front gate and expanded to 3,650 square feet, making it one of the largest Starbucks stores in the Midwest. The seating capacity of 219 will include a spacious outdoor patio that will offer a great view of the 600,000-gallon Royal

► See SNOOPY, page 24

California's Great America expanding Planet Snoopy with three new rides

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — For 2015, California's Great America will expand and rebrand the Planet Snoopy kids area. Three new Planet Snoopy rides will be introduced and be in place for opening day in 2015 when Great America begins its 40th season. The entire KidZville area will be transitioned into the expanded Planet Snoopy.

The new rides will include Joe Cool's Gr8Sk8, Peanuts 500 and Snoopy's Space Buggies. Gr8Sk8 will be an interactive ride atop Snoopy's giant skateboard with the feeling of going off the edge. Peanuts 500 lets racers slingshot around the race track's ends, while Snoopy's Space Buggies will lift astronauts into the air for a gravity defying lunar landing. Ride suppliers had not been named as AT went to

press.

"Great America is known for its thrill rides, but we pride ourselves on being a park for everyone. Enhancing Planet Snoopy and introducing three attractions parents can ride with children adds to our inclusive family atmosphere," said Great America Vice President and General Manager Raul Rehnborg.

In 2013, Great America added Gold Striker, which was named the world's seventh best wooden roller coaster by *Amusement Today's* Golden Ticket Awards. 2014 brought the Great America Pavilion, an almost 18,000-square-foot multi-purpose facility that has become one of the Bay Area premier venues for corporate meetings and catered events, holiday parties and product launches.

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Fan-favorite show dates back to 1992 opening of Fiesta Texas

Rockin' at Rockville closes its doors after two decades

STORY: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The coming and going of shows in theme parks is certainly common. In fact, most shows are expected to play a couple of years, maybe a few, and then be replaced with other offerings. One would think it is the nature of the entertainment departments at parks worldwide. In some rare cases a few exceptions surface.

When Fiesta Texas opened in 1992, they immediately built a reputation for live entertainment. The show Rockin' at Rockville became quite well known and was imitated at numerous parks around the country. In fact, it won numerous industry awards as Best Theme Park Show for many years.

Ben McTyre, director of entertainment for Six Flags Fiesta Texas, left the corporate offices to take the reins of the show productions in 2006. A fan



McTyre

of live music with a commitment to finding the best talent, the park continued winning awards under McTyre's direction. Among them, the park acquired a hefty count of Golden Ticket Awards. Under his leadership, the quality continues to flourish.

As fall approached this



After two decades of entertaining guests, the Fiesta Texas Rockin' at Rockville show (shown at right from 1992) has closed to make way for a new show in 2015.

SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS; AT FILE

past season, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, made a bold decision. It was announced Rockin' at Rockville would not return for 2015. *Amusement Today* sat down with McTyre and got his thoughts on the move. "It was a difficult decision to decide to close the show," he says. "It had been running since the park opened in 1992. We realize it was an institution here."

"About a month out from show closing, I got with Jeffrey Siebert, marketing director here, and we did decide to release to the public that we would not be bringing the show back next year. He communicated it via press release and many media outlets picked it up."



As far as public reaction, McTyre knew there would be a lot of both — criticism and excitement. "Surprisingly a lot of the regulars who come and see the shows every year were very supportive of the decision and excited to see something new coming," he says, a bit relieved. The park adopted a "graduation" theme as the show worked toward its end Labor Day weekend.

For 2015, Fiesta Texas will be introducing a first-of-its-kind roller coaster from S&S/Sansei. The location of the attraction in Rockville played into the decision. "We felt with the new ride and the revitalization coming into the area, it was time to look at doing something new. While difficult

[to close the show], we are very excited about the prospect of bringing something exciting into the Rockville venue," he adds. At this time, the park is looking at three or four options for the direction the new show will take next year.

For 2015, the park will be starting from scratch. In the meantime, the park has opted to use the theater for the upcoming Holiday in the Park festival. Previously, a live show took place in the Sangerfest Hall since the park rebooted the Christmas event in 2007. A live band and eight performers will see an expansion this year of a brass band. "A fun show with a lot of dance and an emphasis on swing type Christmas songs. Think Brian Setzer

Orchestra, Chicago, Glenn Miller...that type of thing," he says. The new show will be called My Christmas Card to You. In addition, the Rockville Dickens Carolers will now be a new a cappella show called the Tinseltones this Christmas.

As the new show is developed, the park will have full control on the final product. Outside companies will not be sought. "We do almost all of our productions in-house," smiles McTyre. "It is something we are very proud of. We have a great team here. We are not planning on doing a nostalgia type show. It will be song and dance, and it will be spectacular — very high energy."



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►SNOOPY Continued from page 23

Fountain and Eiffel Tower.

The International Street Fudge and Candy Shop will be renamed Sweet Spot and undergo an extensive interior and exterior redesign with new product offerings and the opportunity for guests to experience watching fudge and candy being made through large glass windows.

A new yogurt store, Yogurt Plus, will be located on International Street in the current Starbucks location, offering 18 different flavors and an endless combination of toppings including fresh cut fruits, candy, cereal, nuts, granola, and syrups.

Other International Street renovations include the Funnel Cake stand, which will allow guests to see the toppings that are available to top their fresh-fried funnel cake. Toppings will include warm blueberry and apple toppings, fresh strawberry glaze topping, and hand-scooped ice cream.

Other changes coming to the park as part of the 2015 plan include an expanded Coca-Cola Marketplace with a deeper selection of healthy food options, Coca-Cola Free-style Café, and upgrades to the Picnic Grove area with a new entrance, improved landscaping around each of the pavilions and remodeled restroom facilities.

\$41 million in total coupon sales recorded

2014 State Fair of Texas knocks off previous records

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

DALLAS, Texas — Ranking as the most successful fair in the event's 128-year history, the 2014 State Fair of Texas, Sept. 26-Oct. 19, generated an off-the-charts turnout with an estimated \$41 million in coupon sales for food and rides.

The previous record of \$37.3 million was set in 2010.

"The success of this year's State Fair of Texas is a testament to the entire state fair team, full-time and seasonal employees, as well as all of our partners who work so hard to make this the best state fair in the country," said Mitchell Glier, president of the State Fair of Texas.

Bringing the traditional lineup of food, festivities and family fun, the 2014 State Fair also threw a few new additions into the mix. The "Texas Sports Legends" exhibit gave fairgoers the chance to see a special selection of memorabilia from the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, showcased in the Hall of State.

The all-new Wild West Pet Palooza brought big crowds with its all-star cast of critters

performing comical acts in the historic Fair Park Band Shell.

With records broken across various categories, along with a few "firsts" that put new records in place for the future, 2014 was a whirlwind year for fair officials.

In fact, a whirlwind crossed the fairgrounds on Oct. 2, during the fair, causing some damage, but as the adage goes, the show must go on. And, it did.

Rusty Fitzgerald, fair director of operations, said the storm hit sometime in the afternoon, but it never really shut the fair down completely.

"We knew it was coming," Fitzgerald said. "We had been watching it. About 25 minutes before it hit, we already had everyone in the buildings participating in activities there and all outside operations shut down."

The storm came through with winds between 70 to 80 mph, he said.

"It didn't damage any rides. We did have some power outage to one part of the fairgrounds for a while," Fitzgerald said.

Karrisa Shuler, director



Ranking as the most successful fair in the event's 128-year history, the 2014 State Fair of Texas, Dallas, generated an off-the-charts turnout this year when it ran Sept. 26-Oct. 19. COURTESY STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

of public relations, said there were some downed limbs and a stand did blow over.

"After it blew through, we just went out and started picking up trash cans and putting them back in place," Fitzgerald said. "Other than that, there was very little damage."

Fitzgerald said there were 73 rides on the independent midway this year, about the

► See TEXAS, page 26



Stacey VanderVorste, left, and sister Stephanie VanderVorste Janousek were enjoying showing off some of the offerings at Janousek's Texas Steak Out (above) food operation at the 2014 State Fair of Texas. Offerings on the menu included the open ear grilled corn, steak on a stick, sliced brisket sandwich, bacon wrapped turkey legs and new this year, a beer trailer. AT/GARY SLADE



The Texas Star, owned by Mary and Tom Talley and manufactured by S.D.C. ranked as the top ride at the 2014 record-setting State Fair of Texas. Seen here beside the wheel is the Top O' Texas Tower, owned by the fair and manufactured by Intamin. That ride came in as the fourth top ride this year. COURTESY STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

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Attendance numbers up at the 2014 North Carolina State Fair

RALEIGH, N.C. — The 2014 North Carolina State Fair, which ran Oct. 16-26, ended on a high note this year with 929,748 fairgoers reported, up slightly from 2013's 927,563.

Fair officials were pleased with the results even though no records were set. An overall attendance record was set in 2010 when 1,091,887 people visited the event.

The fair offered a variety of entertainment including headline musical acts, roaming entertainment, and free grounds entertainment. There were some new grounds entertainment this year including the Neon Anteaters, a group of quadrupled stilt walkers.

There was also the huge midway provided by Powers Great American Midways. Corky Powers, owner of the show, utilized his large inventory of rides and attractions and booked others in from Wade Shows.

Powers brought with him his new portable Flying Scooters ride by Larson International and made portable by Majestic Manufacturing. Powers told *Amusement Today* that "families love" the new portable version.

One new fair exhibit this year honored North Carolina's involvement in World War I. Historians in uniform were on hand to answer questions and explain what North Carolina soldiers experienced in the trenches. This exhibit is presented by North Carolina Cultural Resources and North Carolina National Guard.

—Pam Sherborne



This view of the North Carolina State Fair shows the crowds during sunny weather run of the fair. The fair reported no rain this year, but it did not make for an attendance breaker. Final attendance figures were 929,748, up from last year's 927,563.



Powers Great American Midways took delivery of this new KMG Inversion just in time for this year's North Carolina State Fair, held in Raleigh. Rides 4U, Somerville, N.J., represents KMG of the Netherlands in the United States.



One of the new rides at North Carolina State Fair was this portable Flying Scooter from Larson International Inc./Majestic Mfg. It is the first portable unit. "Families love it," according to Corky Powers of Powers Great American Midways, which again provided the massive midway at the fair.

PHOTOS COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON



Wisdom's new Stampede was popular at the North Carolina State Fair. The ride was modeled after the Watkins' Ram-page of the 1970s, but with larger capacity and forward seating arrangement.

2014 State Fair of Texas Top 10 Rides

1. **Texas Star**, owned by Mary and Tom Talley, manufactured by S.D.C.
2. **Texas Skyway**, owned by the State Fair of Texas, manufactured by Dopplemayr
3. **Crazy Mouse**, S.J. Entertainment (Steve VanderVorst), Reverchon
4. **Top O' Texas Tower**, State Fair of Texas, Intamin
5. **Fast Trax Super Slide**, Talley Amusements, Fabbri
6. **Love Bugs**, State Fair of Texas, Mack
7. **Starship 3000**, Kyle Brady, Wisdom Manufacturing
8. **Pirate Ship**, State Fair of Texas, Huss
9. **Log Ride**, State Fair of Texas, Arrow
10. **Scooter** (bumper cars), Patrick Sheridan, Majestic Manufacturing Inc.

►TEXAS

Continued from page 25

same as in 2013. Those rides were brought in by 15 different operators. There were no major changes to the midway.

The Texas Star, owned by Mary and Tom Talley, Talley Amusements, and manufactured by S.D.C., was the top ride at the fair this year.

For the first time in fair history, one of the Big Tex Choice Award winners sold out completely before the end of the fair — the Original State Fair Brew — Funnel Cake Ale,

winner of Most Creative at the 2014 Big Tex Choice Awards. The other Big Tex Choice Award (for Best Tasting) went to Clint Probst for his Fried Gulf Shrimp Boil.

The 2015 State Fair of Texas dates are Sept. 25-Oct. 18.

New this year was this souvenir cup sporting Big Tex's head. The cup could be purchased, then refilled at discount prices. The cup was made by Berk Concession Supply. AT/GARY SLADE



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CARNIVAL LIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne, psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Organizers say nearly 475,000 people attended the **South Carolina State Fair** this year, the second-largest ever.

The fair, located in the state's capital city of Columbia, ran Oct. 8-19. Assistant Fair Manager **Nancy Smith** said in a statement that 473,359 people attended during the 12-day run.

The fair set an opening day record of about 41,000 visitors and a closing day record of nearly 46,000.

The record was set in 2010, when more than 490,000 attended.

The fair suffered two days of bad weather this year and had one headliner concert canceled because of an injury to a band member of ZZ Top.

General Manager **Gary Goodman** said he's pleased with the Pink Fair that emphasized breast cancer awareness.

North American Midway Entertainment provided 39 rides for Majorland and 24 for Kid-land. New for the fair this year was a **Remix**, made by **Tivoli**.

Officials with the **Arkansas State Fair** in Little Rock reported final attendance this year reaching 407,363. Even though this does represent a 8.6 percent drop from 2013's 445,314, fair General Manager **Ralph Shoptaw** said he was very pleased with that number, particularly since the first four days of the 10-day event saw rain, thunderstorms and strong winds. The fair ran Oct. 10-19. Attendance the final six days rebounded.

This was the 75th anniversary of the fair. There were special activities to celebrate the occasion, notably a parade through downtown Little Rock the second Saturday of the fair with marching bands, floats, cars and animals.

Deggeller Attractions provided 56 rides for the midway including some new rides such as **Hang 10**, manufactured by **S.D.C.**; **Chance Rides Yo-Yo**; **Happy Swing** and **Baja Buggies**, both by **Zamperla**, and a **Huss Enterprise**.

Perfect weather and discounted tickets made this year's 80th annual **Pensacola (Fla.) Interstate Fair** one the best ever, said General Manager **Don Frenkel**.

"If it's possible to have a perfect fair we've just had it," Frenkel said, in a local news report. "There's no final figures yet, but it's going to be a record breaking year. We've had a huge turnout."

Frenkel said attendance should be more than 400,000. The last time the fair saw this many fairgoers was in 2005.

Reithoffer Shows Inc. provided the midway with about 60 rides this year, including a new ride for the fair, the **Air Race**, manufactured by **Zamperla**.

Ricky Reithoffer told the local news agency that: "This is one of the best runs we've ever had here. With people being able to buy their tickets early, they were able to split the cost of admission and the actual time at the fair on different pay checks, so that's been a big hit."

Attendance at the 2014 **Georgia National Fair** in Perry was the second highest ever.

The fair, which ran Oct. -12, drew 456,023 visitors. That is up 1.4 percent from 2013's 449,885. The record attendance was set in 2010 with 465,053 in attendance, according to **Stacy Campbell**, director of communications, **Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter**.

This was the 25th anniversary for the event. It set three daily attendance records, on Oct. 7, 8, and 9. Those numbers were to be released after *Amusement Today's* press time.

Sunshine and clear skies during most of the fair, as well as the free entertainment, helped with the record attendance, **Randy Moore**, executive director at the fairgrounds, said in a release.

Reithoffer Shows provided the midway.

Two rainy Saturdays during the 196th **Topsfield (Mass.) Fair**, which ran Oct. 3-13, most likely dampened not only the fairgrounds but overall attendance. Fair General Manager **Jamie O'Brien** said, be that as it may, the fair was still a success.

Changes made to the fair this year included no paid arena concerts. Instead, the fair offered free musical acts and paid monster truck shows.

Fiesta Shows provided the midway for this year's event.

South Dakota Ag Secretary **Lucas Lentsch** is in the process of working with a committee to find a new **South Dakota State Fair** general manager to replace **Jerome Hertel**, who has held that position for the past seven years. Hertel told local news agencies that he resigned to take the position of general manager at the **Alaska State Fair**, Palmer, which will run Aug. 27-Sept. 7, 2015.

Lentsch said there were no plans to rush through the search process for the Huron, S.D., event.

Lentsch said Hertel did a great job running the event, evidenced by this year's fair, which saw a total attendance of over 210,000, all 500 vendor spots sold out, and 20,000 tickets sold for the grandstand entertainment. This year's fair ran Aug. 27-Sept. 1. The 2015 dates are Sept. 3-7.

The midway for 2014 was provided by **Gold-Star Amusements**.

David Bednar, the general manager of the **Canadian National Exhibition**, Toronto, Ont., has plans to retire next spring after 16 years on the job.

This year the CNE saw its highest attendance record since 2004. A total of 1.43 million people attended the 18-day run, with overall attendance up 5.51 percent from last year.

North American Midway Entertainment has provided the midway for the event for the last 10 years. This year the carnival brought in more than 60 rides.

The 2015 Canadian National Exhibition takes place from Aug. 21 to Sept. 7 at Exhibition Place in Toronto.

There was no news on the search for Bednar's replacement.

Have Carnival news of interest?
Email your news item to: psherborne@amusementtoday.com.

Showmen Supplies and Fabbri Group sign ride parts distribution deal

LA PORTE, Ind., — Showmen Supplies, a lighting and electrical products distributor for the amusement industry, has reached an agreement with the Fabbri Group, an Italian manufacturer of amusement rides, to be the exclusive distributor of Fabbri amusement ride parts for the United States and Canada. The deal was announced on Aug. 7, 2014.

Scott Siefker, vice president of Showmen Supplies, said, "Because our core business already revolves around the logistics of component part supply, we felt we were ideally suited to managing a ride parts distributorship to service Fabbri ride owners." When asked what would be the greatest benefit of this deal, Siefker stated, "We have 48 years of customer service experience in the amusement industry. This will be a great advantage to owners of Fabbri equipment whose business depends on having their rides in operation and not out of commission while they wait for shipments to arrive from Europe. We know that when they call they need replacement parts to be in stock and shipped quickly and we have a great history of doing exactly that."

Founded in 1966 by the Siefker family, Showmen Supplies has long been servicing the amusement industry by providing specialty lighting, electrical, power distribution and ride parts from their fa-

cility in La Porte and from their mobile warehouses that travel across the country to service major fairs and carnivals on site. Along the way their business and inventory has evolved in response to the industry's needs. For that reason Scott Siefker reasoned that, "handling ride parts was a natural expansion for us."

So far, customer response to the new venture has been very positive. Mark Siefker,

vice president of Showmen Supplies, related that, "A few of our customers who are aware of our agreement with Fabbri have shown a great deal of excitement about having a more local source for critical components. Especially with our track record of timeliness and customer satisfaction."

Last month, Showmen Supplies acquired the existing U.S.-based Fabbri parts inventory from Amusement Sales,

Inc. and has embarked on an expansion of that inventory to have the most commonly sought parts readily available to Fabbri ride owners. Confronting the task now before them, Scott Siefker said, "We'll have lots of work to do in expanding our parts database, learning the equipment functionality, and familiarizing ourselves with new mechanical systems but I know we're up for the challenge and will

do a great job for our customers."

For more information contact:

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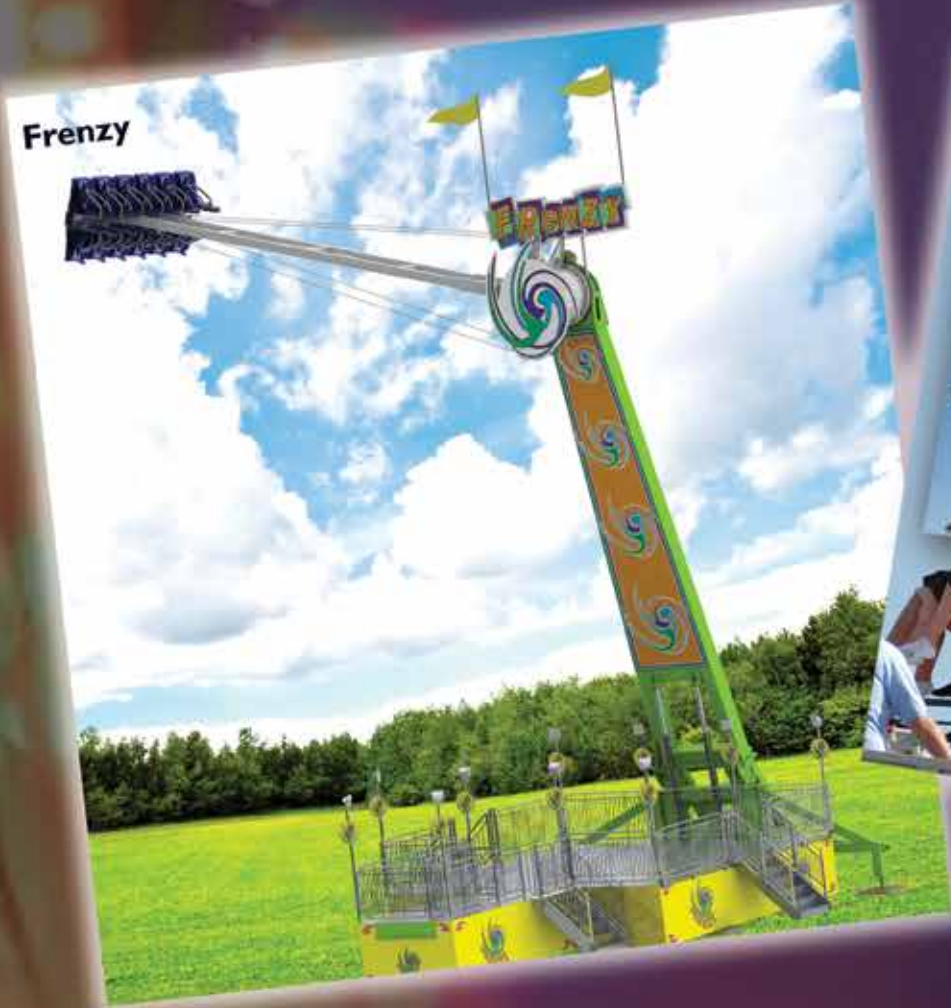
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BUSINESS & CLASSIFIEDS

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Fårup Sommerland building new four-star hotel for 2016

JYLLAND, Denmark — This fall Fårup Sommerland broke ground and began construction on a new hotel, which will be completed for the 2016 season.

"We have wanted a hotel in the park for years, and now it is finally a reality. The final decision was made at our board meeting on August 18 and we were in agreement to immediately begin realizing the plans so our guests can have the possibility to enjoy the hotel as soon as possible," said Fårup Sommerland President and Managing Director Søren Kragelund.

Kragelund added that the hotel will be a four-star property according to the international scale and that this involves an investment in the region of DKK 45 million. It



Denmark's Fårup Sommerland has broken ground and began construction on a new four-star hotel that will be built on the property and will opened in 2016. Sporting 51 rooms, the hotel will feature a fun forest theme with a family-friendly layout.

COURTESY FÅRUP SOMMERLAND

will be positioned as an integrated part of the forest so guests will have an exciting view across the lake and be able to see the roller coasters Orkanen and Falken from their rooms.

"There will be 51 rooms

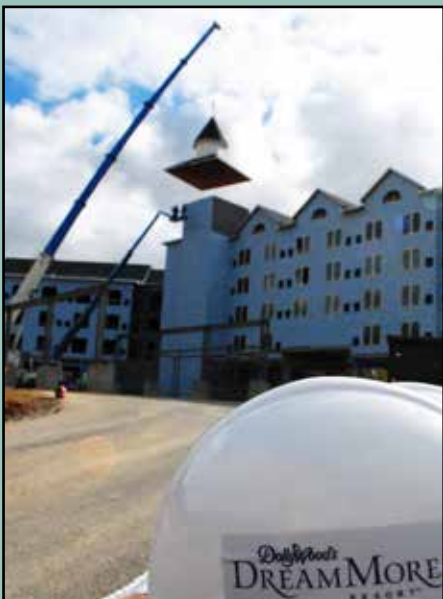
and the hotel, like everything else in Fårup Sommerland, will be decorated in a really fun forest theme with children and family-friendly layout from top to bottom. It will be a fun experience to stay overnight," said Kragelund. "The

hotel marks a new era for Fårup. With it we are expanding our service and offers significantly for our guests. We have a great demand from our guests for overnight accommodation in the park and we are very pleased to be able to

meet their demand now. We look forward to welcoming families to a real Fårup Sommerland resort where they can enjoy themselves, the dining options and stay overnight in the forest just next to the North Sea and sandy beaches.

"Next year, Fårup Sommerland will have been part of Danish tourism for 40 years and the park is more popular than ever. A hotel of the quality we will be building will strengthen and increase tourism, not just for Fårup Sommerland, but the entire area. The hotel will be a great addition to the many camping sites and other overnight accommodation options, which are in the area already and will draw even more guests to North Jutland."

Dollywood's DreamMore Resort reaches construction milestone



Construction crews placed the final spire atop the 307-room Dollywood's DreamMore Resort's entrance tower on October 22, 2014 marking an important milestone for the property. COURTESY DOLLYWOOD

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — Construction crews placed the final spire atop Dollywood's DreamMore Resort's entrance tower on October 22, 2014. This marks an important milestone for the 307-room property which opens summer 2015 next door to Dollywood's theme parks. Officials also announced the first two members of the resort's management team.

During the topping out ceremony, crews finished the last major project on the resort's iconic outside profile. Attention now will focus inward as construction continues on the property's spacious guest rooms and family-friendly public areas.

Amy Owenby, Dollywood's vice president of hospitality, also introduced the first two members of the resort's staff. **Kevin Osborn** was appointed



Osborn

as general manager of Dollywood's DreamMore Resort after spending many years in leadership roles within Marriott International. **Cordelia Marzak** joins the team as director of Sales and Marketing. Marzak joins the team after her tenure with JHM Hotels in Orlando.

"With the addition of Kevin and Cordelia and their exceptional knowledge of the resort industry, we continue to position Dollywood's DreamMore Resort as a premier family destination," said Owenby. "Kevin's varied experiences within leading hotels in the industry offer him a unique vantage point of how to best serve and entertain Dollywood's future resort guests. His expertise will provide us with a strong foundation as we move closer to opening our first resort."



Marzak

A seasoned veteran of the hospitality industry, Osborn worked more than 27 years with Marriott International.

"Cordelia dreamed of one day being able to come home to work at a world-class resort," Owenby continued. "As a native of East Tennessee, she understands the distinctive features of this region which make it such an attractive vacation option for families. The knowledge she has gained during her career will serve us well as we develop Dollywood's DreamMore Resort in to the world-class destination in which she always dreamed of working."

Dollywood's DreamMore Resort is the second capital investment in a 10-year plan that includes more than \$300 million in future developments for The Dollywood Company. FireChaser Express, the first project in the development plan, opened at Dollywood in March 2014.

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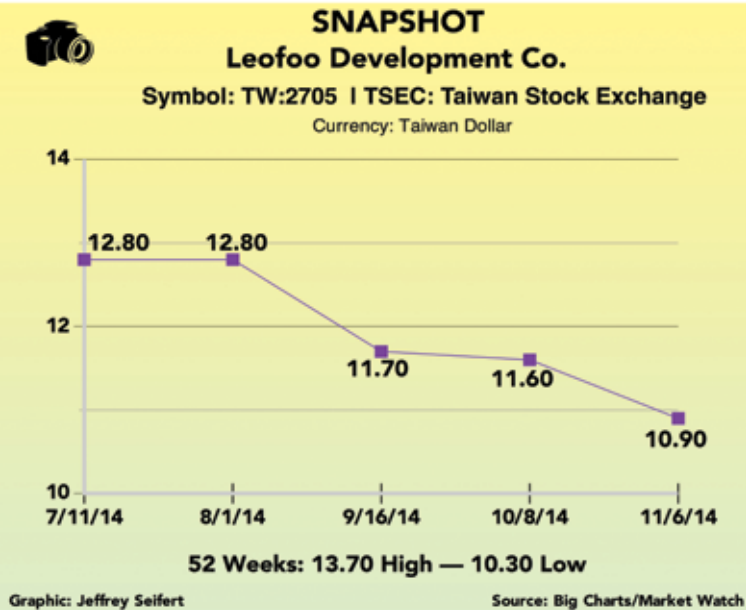
COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 11/16/14	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
Apollo Global Management (Great Wolf Resorts)	APO	NYSE	22.58	36.51	20.02
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	30.30	36.08	25.60
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	351.00	353.50	3.20
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	47.62	55.76	42.75
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	55.38	57.49	46.57
	CMCSK	NASDAQ	55.18	57.16	45.55
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	92.00	91.98	66.72
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1105.00	1270.00	796.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.09	2.27	1.02
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	10.90	13.70	10.30
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	21.87	28.75	18.40
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	18.84	35.30	17.22
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	5.55	5.89	4.30
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	39.89	43.19	31.77
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	2990.00	3216.00	2900.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	7.15	8.44	6.60

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West Coast	\$3.704	-\$0.219
California	\$3.861	-\$0.231

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1.1413	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Gateway Ticketing Systems wins chamber award

GILBERTSVILLE, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems has been awarded the 2014 Economic Impact Award by the TriCounty Chamber of Commerce. Gateway received the award for the completion of their new corporate headquarters building in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania. The company moved into its new location, a 42,000 square foot, two-story office structure, in August 2014. The new building in Gilbertsville is expected to support the creation of 15 jobs and retention of 80 positions in Berks County. The company's employees provide service to more than 475 customer sites in over 40 countries.

The building project supported dozens of local Pennsylvania contractors at an estimated cost of \$7 million dollars. Investments were made to provide a productive and enjoyable working environment for the company's employee base including a fitness room; indoor bike storage; car charging stations; a cafeteria offering free coffee, tea, and soda; and spacious work spaces with sitting and standing options, among other amenities.

Cedar Fair reports record 3rd Quarter revenues

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Fair Entertainment Company (NYSE: FUN), reported on November 6, 2014 record revenues for its third quarter ending September 28, 2014 and announced a 7 percent increase in its quarterly cash distribution.

- Highlights include:
- Cedar Fair reported record net revenues of \$595 million in the third quarter, a 1 percent increase over last year's record results.
 - Net revenues on a comparable-park basis through Sunday, November 2, 2014, were up 2 percent, driven by a 3 percent increase in average in-park guest per capita spending.
 - With more than 95 percent of its operating days complete, the company expects to achieve full-year net revenues at the low end of its current revenue guidance range of \$1.15 billion to \$1.17 billion. It also anticipates being at the low end of its current Adjusted EBITDA guidance range of \$425 million to \$435 million.
 - Cedar Fair's board of directors declared a 7 percent increase in its quarterly cash distribution to \$0.75 per limited partner (LP) unit, payable December 15, 2014.
- "The foundation for our continuing ability to drive a fifth year of record results is our commitment to providing a compelling park experience for audiences of all ages," said Matt Ouimet, Cedar Fair's president and chief executive officer. "Our high-quality assets and operational excellence drive increased guest spending and repeat visitation. Through this past weekend, net revenues increased at all of our properties, with the exception of those in the Great Lakes region which experienced challenging weather patterns throughout the year. Two of our largest parks, Kings Island and Knott's Berry Farm, will deliver record profitability and in spite of a challenging year weather-wise, our flagship park, Cedar Point, will have its second best year ever.

Magic Memories adds finance and IT leaders

QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand — International photographic solutions company, Magic Memories, recently announced cloud computing pioneer Craig Elliot and corporate finance and investment expert Dean Hamilton as the newest members of its board of directors. Elliott is a high-tech executive who brings a wealth of experience to the Magic Memories board, with 29 years of international management, sales and marketing experience focusing on networking and communications products and services. Hamilton is managing director of independent corporate advisory practice Hamilton & Co. He has spent 13 years with Deutsche Bank, most recently having spent seven years leading its Melbourne investment banking business, where he was head of industrial and private equity coverage for Australia and New Zealand.

Quick Hit...

•BATON ROUGE, La. — The Haunted Attraction National Trade-show and Conference, sponsored by DarkLight, recently announced that HAuNTcon 2015 will be held in Baton Rouge, La. at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel and Conference Center February 6-11. For more information: www.HAuNT.com.

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FAST TRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford,
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A 50-year-old tradition continued as the **Disneyland Resort** recently selected the 2015-2016 Ambassador Team. In a ceremony at Sleeping Beauty Castle, Disneyland Resort President **Michael Colglazier** announced that **Allie Kawamoto** and **Jessica Bernard** will represent the resort and its 26,000 cast members by bringing Disney magic to the community and serving as emissaries of goodwill. As part of their duties, the team will participate in a variety of events, such as hospital visits with Disney characters, promotional tours and cast recognition ceremonies. The Disney Ambassador program, started by **Walt Disney** in 1965, was established to assist Walt with sharing the inspiration and optimism of **Disneyland** with the community. **Julie Reihm Casaletto**, the first Disney Ambassador, helped welcome the new team and shared stories about her special bond with Walt Disney.

The Vekoma-designed **Battlestar Galactica** dual steel roller coaster at **Universal Studios Singapore** (USS) is set to re-open after being grounded for more than a year. A spokesperson for **Resorts World Sentosa** (RWS) confirmed that they are preparing to re-launch the ride and details will be announced at a later date. Test runs for the Battlestar Galactica are currently underway, *Channel News-Asia* reported.

During **Kings Island's** Halloween Haunt event in late October, **Mark Specht** of Berea, Ohio, had the honor of being the 50 millionth ride on **The Beast** wooden roller coaster. Specht received a Beast T-shirt, cap and ornament, picture frame, a 2015 VIP tour for eight guests and a large sign proclaiming him as the coaster's 50 millionth rider. Opened in 1979, The Beast is still listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records" as the longest wooden roller coaster in the world at 7,359 feet.

SeaWorld San Antonio will begin construction early next year on its largest capital investment ever, making room for new orca and dolphin habitats and a major renovation to its California sea lion attraction. The theme park recently filed architectural plans with the state, indicating a February 2015 start date for an estimated \$30 million project. The work will include an expansion and renovation of an existing animal exhibit, new buildings and an underwater viewing facility. Renovations also will impact a gift shop, orientation room, merchandise and photo sales areas, and "a fish prep room." Construction should last until May 2016.

The **Orlando Eye** is celebrating a major construction milestone with the completion of the spoke installation of the inner wheel, clearing the way for work to begin on the outer wheel, eventually bringing the structure to a height and width of 400 feet, making it the tallest observation wheel on the East Coast of the U.S. "This is a really exciting moment for The Orlando Eye. From this point forward, construction will soon showcase the true height of the Eye at 400 feet," said **James Paulding**, head of new openings for North America for **Merlin Entertainments**. "Work is progress-

ing quickly, and we are on track for our grand opening next spring."

Compagnie des Alpes, a French company created in 1989 to operate ski resorts and other European tourist destinations has announced their full-year sales figures. A 6.3 percent increase in revenue year-on-year for leisure destinations is hailed as proof that the group's strategy is working. **Dominique Marcel**, chairman and CEO, said: "The healthy sales figures in Leisure destinations this year attest to the effectiveness of the new strategy announced last year. This performance is especially noteworthy for the consistently positive results achieved throughout the year, even with no major new attractions and in spite of a challenging economic context. The recovery plan for this business has started to bear fruit. This management acumen, combined with our expertise in operating major ski areas, opens up attractive prospects abroad, where our services are in ever greater demand."

Dubai Parks and Resorts, a Meraas Holding company, has announced the appointment of **Parques Reunidos** as park operators for two theme parks planned for the emirate. A deal to run motiongate Dubai and Bollywood Parks Dubai marks Parques Reunidos' foray into the Middle East. Parques Reunidos is a Madrid-based operator that manages 54 theme and amusement parks, water parks, zoological and marine life parks around the world, primarily across Europe and the U.S.

Adventure Park in New Market, Md., recently announced a new roller coaster for its 10th anniversary in 2015. The new roller coaster will open to the public in the spring along with the rest of the park's outdoor rides. The coaster was previously located at the **Old Town Theme Park** in Kissimmee, Fla. and is in the process of being completely restored before being resurrected.

"Guests were ecstatic to hear the news about the new coaster and flocked to our Facebook page to show their enthusiasm," explains **Larry Stottlemeyer**, owner of Adventure Park USA.

Throughout the 2014 season, the park has added several new rides including the **Mini Himalaya**, **Scrambler**, **Tilt-A-Whirl**, **Frog Hopper** and the former **Windstorm** coaster. The preparations also include a full renovation of the exterior landscaping and brand-new efficient bulbs in every light fixture in the park.

The **Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel** is getting a \$125 million, multi-phased, multi-story upgrade. The project will consist of redesigning all the rooms of the two hotels with new furniture and technology. The project is expected to boost the marketability of the property and result in increased visitation to Orlando, as well as much-needed construction work for the region. "As we celebrate the hotel's 25th anniversary, it is appropriate that we mark the occasion with a renaissance of our room product," said General Manager **Fred Sawyers**. It's expected the work will not disrupt the regular hotel operations.

OBITUARY

Former Dorney Park owner, Harris Weinstein, dies at 79

SOUTH WHITEHALL TWP. Pa. — **Harris L. Weinstein**, who owned Dorney Park from 1985 until 1992, passed away peacefully on October 25 at his Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. home surrounded by his family. He was 79.

Weinstein was a graduate of Syracuse University and assumed his father's garment factory at a very young age. His interest in real estate developed into the founding of Sunburst Property Management and Weinstein Realty in Allentown, Pa. Harris was a founding president of the Northeastern Foundation of Cystic Fibrosis, a national trustee of Cystic Fibrosis, and V.P. and a director on the board of Place of Hope, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

In 1985, he purchased half interest of Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom and became the CEO and chairman of the board until 1992 when the park was sold to Cedar Fair.

"During his tenure with the park, Harris oversaw its expansion from a local amusement park to a player on the regional stage with several industry-leading additions such as the one of the first and largest seasonal water parks (Wildwater Kingdom) and one of the world's tallest wooden coasters at the time, (Hercules)," Dorney Park officials said in a statement. "We are grateful for the part he played in our history and our hearts go out to his family as they work through the loss of their husband and father."

Lenny Freund, owner and operator of Freund Family Foods, remember Harris well. "Having never worked a single day in an amusement park, and achieved what he did is an incredible story. He tripled Dorney's attendance while competing in the same market with two corporate giants, Six Flags Great Adventure and Hersheypark. I was director of Food Service when the Ott family ran the park, was there for the entire Harris Weinstein era and stayed with Cedar Fair for three years after their purchase."

W.H.R., Inc.'s Bill Robinson remembered Weinstein telling AT: "I met Harris in 1985, the day after he had

bought out the Ott family's stock in Dorney Park. Harris was an intelligent, soft spoken, kind leader who raised Dorney Park from a small local amusement park to a giant regional facility. The last time I saw him was in 2012 at the IAAPA Expo in Orlando. He told me that with the exception of the loss of his son (who had passed from Cystic Fibrosis), he had lived a great life. He then thanked me for the many years my company provided Dorney Park with creative TV and Radio commercials, then turned to my own son, John, and told him that he had a great dad. That's just the kind of man Harris was!"

Weinstein's son, Jamie, reflects on his dad's time at Dorney Park. "My father always said his happiest working days in his remarkable business career were spent at Dorney Park, building it from a small, family-owned amusement park into a regional behemoth. He loved the excitement of the park. He loved the business challenge it presented. He loved interacting with the people who came to enjoy it. He loved it all. He was a larger than life personality who dreamed the impossible, but always seemed to know how to make the impossible a reality. His Dorney Park legacy lives not only in his indisputable success he had in rapidly growing the park, but in all the smiles he painted on those who enjoyed the park during the years he operated it. It's a tremendous legacy, worthy of the giant of a man he was."

Harris is survived by wife Debora Jean Plarr Weinstein; sons, David and Jamie; daughters, Beth and Lisa; and sisters, Edith Miller and Sylvia Sussman; and eight grandchildren.



Weinstein

SPOTLIGHT: SAFETY & EDUCATION

Registration now open for 2015 AIMS Safety Seminar

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Registration for AIMS International's 43rd Annual Safety Seminar is now open and available online. This comprehensive seminar, to be held January 11-16, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Orlando, Florida, offers classroom and hands-on safety training along with invaluable networking opportunities for ride inspectors, maintenance, operations and aquatic personnel in the amusement industry. With more than 300 students expected, the seminar is renowned for its diverse curriculum and the quality of its expert instructors who are today's leading industry professionals.

Tuition is \$595 and includes all class materials, lunches, two daily breaks, Continuing Education Units (CEU), and completion certificates. AIMS certification testing and other certificates are offered at an additional fee. Level I testing is available in Spanish. A complete schedule and class list along with hotel and other information can be found at <http://aimsintl.org/ss-seminarinfo.asp>.

For more information about the AIMS Safety Seminar, please email info@aimsintl.org or contact Holly Coston, seminar operations manager at (714) 697-6654.

About AIMS International

AIMS International is a non-profit 501(c)(6) association dedicated to improving amusement industry safety through its leadership in education. AIMS International provides training classes and certification (CEU) programs for ride inspectors, operations, aquatics and maintenance personnel through its annual Safety Seminar and at other venues throughout the year. AIMS also serves to inform its members on legislative and other issues relating to industry.

Registration now open for FEC Dallas 2015

Event features education sessions, keynote, and facility post-tour

DALLAS, Texas — Registration is now open for FEC Dallas 2015, which will take place Feb. 8-10, 2015 in Dallas, Texas.

With its theme "Share. Engage. Grow." FEC Dallas 2015 will provide family entertainment center (FEC) owners, operators, manufacturers, and suppliers from around the world the ideal venue to share information and best practices in engaging sessions and events to learn successful strategies and grow their profits. Other program highlights include a keynote address by famed entrepreneur and author Brandon Steiner and an event post-tour to Dallas-area FECs.

FEC Dallas 2015 is a conference for FEC operators and offers leaders in the family entertainment center industry more than 30 hours of interactive learning, networking,

and visits to local facilities. The high-energy education sessions will provide insights into key operational and revenue generating areas including marketing, social media, food and beverage, redemption games, and more. A complete schedule and details of the education sessions will be announced in the coming months.

Keynote speaker Brandon Steiner began his career more than 30 years ago in the hospitality industry, including stints at the Hard Rock Café and the Sporting Club in New York City.

"FEC Dallas offers IAA-PA member FEC owners, operators, and suppliers unique learning opportunities starting with the marketing and entrepreneurial insights of keynote speaker Brandon Steiner," said IAA-PA President and CEO Paul Noland. "Plus, with more than

30 hours to learn, to share ideas, and to network with like-minded colleagues from around the world you are certain to come away with four or five ideas to grow your bottom line."

A post-tour event will take place Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015. Attendees will visit four area FECs: Amazing Jakes, SpeedZone, iT'Z, and Celebration Station to tour and discuss food and beverage services, revenue operations, ride and attraction maintenance, and group sales activities. A separate registration is required and additional information is available at www.IAAPA.org/FECDallas.

FEC Dallas 2015 is open to IAAPA members only. Individuals who register before Dec. 12, 2014, will save 25 percent on registration. Additional information is available at www.IAAPA.org/FECDallas.



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Countdown to the biggest and best Safety Seminar in the amusement industry!

Karen Oertley
AIMS Executive
Director
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Oertley

ORLANDO, Fla. — In just a few weeks, more than 300 amusement industry professionals will gather to learn from the industry's leading experts and network with their peers at the industry's most comprehensive annual seminar and certification program: the **2015 AIMS International Safety Seminar**.

This annual seminar is a must for anyone who is responsible for the care and safety of amusement industry guests. World renowned for its diverse curriculum and the quality of instructors, the AIMS Safety Seminar offers something for everyone with more than 400 classes taught by 140 industry experts on aquatics, maintenance, operations, carnivals,

trampolines, ride inspection, OSHA, leadership, and much, much more. More than 30 new classes have been added for 2015. This year, certification testing will be offered for Levels I and II Maintenance Technician and Operations Technician; Level I Aquatics Operations Technician; and Levels I, II and III Ride Inspector Certification. Please visit www.aimsintl.org for a complete schedule, list of classes and to register.

Keynote Speaker

A highlight of the 2015 AIMS Safety Seminar is sure to be the keynote address. The seminar will kick off Monday morning with an address by **Mike Withers**, vice president of Ride Engineering at **Walt Disney Imagineering** who will speak on his career with Walt Disney Imagineering and his experience on the issue of safety in the industry. You won't want to miss this!

Wanted:

Silent Auction items!

The AIMS Silent Auction is always a highlight of the week during the Safety Seminar.

It gives everyone a chance to bid on all kinds of fun items and helps support AIMS' continuous effort to upgrade the seminar experience with state of the art A/V equipment for classes. Items from previous auctions have included all kinds of amusement industry merchandise such as shirts, bags, hats, etc., weekend stays at resorts, tickets and all types of amusement industry memorabilia. You can be as creative as you like! Please contact **Holly Coston** at aims.office@gmail.com for information on where to send your items.

Important deadlines

Register for the seminar and book your hotel room by **December**

31 to avoid extra charges. The \$595 seminar **registration fee** covers all five days of classes and materials, the opening reception, lunch every day, and all morning and afternoon snack breaks. After December 31, registration increases to \$695. Book your hotel room at the DoubleTree by Hilton by December 31 to get the special **AIMS rate of \$97 per night**.

Time to join the conversation

Connect with AIMS and other industry members on the AIMS International Facebook page and Twitter (@aims_intl). For updates and news on the AIMS Safety Seminar, join the conversation #AIMS15.

From all of us at AIMS International, Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a SAFE and prosperous New Year!

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando January 11-16, 2015!

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of Amusement Today as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.



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SPOTLIGHT: SAFETY & EDUCATION

Foundations Entertainment University announces three dates, locations

EAST BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Foundations Entertainment University, going into its 12th year, continues to be the entertainment industry's resource for covering all aspects of market & financial feasibility, planning, design, financing, development, marketing and managing a location-based entertainment business for long term success. The class provides a complete blueprint for anyone developing and opening a new center or significantly expanding or renovating an existing location-based entertainment facility. Just as important, existing facilities can learn how to stay ahead of the competition and expanding markets. Three dates and cities have been announced:

- January 20 - 22, 2015 - Phoenix, Arizona
- July 21 - 23, 2015 - Chicago, Illinois
- October 13 - 15, 2015 - Dallas, Texas

Foundations Workshop Tuition Fee of \$489 includes: 2.5 full days of classroom instruction; lunch and dinner Tuesday and Wednesday (our special hotel rate includes breakfast coupon); Tuesday late evening/night tour of local entertainment center; comprehensive manuscript book and CD; informal one-on-one consultations with instructors and two or more people from same company, first per person at regular rate; 50 percent discount for each additional person.

For more information and to register, visit www.foundationsuniversity.com.

F2FEC event announced for February 24-26, 2015 in Phoenix

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Face 2 Face Entertainment Conference (F2FEC) announces Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort as the venue for the inaugural F2FEC event for the Entertainment Center sector being held February 24-26, 2015 in Phoenix, Ariz.

"Environment and location are each vital to help create a great relaxed feeling and sharing attitude among attendees and we found this and more in the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort" reported Ben Jones one of the co-founders of F2FEC.

F2FEC, Face 2 Face Entertainment Conference, is a North American conference for the benefit of entertainment center professionals including manufacturers, suppliers and operators under the expansive FEC umbrella including traditional family entertainment centers, bowling centers, roller skating, trampoline, water parks, hybrid parks and specialty entertainment center attractions.

F2FEC is being produced by Rick Iceberg, Ben Jones and George Smith under the moniker Three Amigos and planned by a diverse group of approximately 20-25 volunteers from all aspects of the industry but with a keen focus on manufactures and suppliers and touching each of the EC industry's genres, sectors and communities.

The conference is open to all entertainment industry supporters and seeks to attract veteran owners and operators alongside experienced professionals in a level playing field, all-in format.

For more information contact: Rick Iceberg, CJ Barrymore at cjbarrymores.com; Ben Jones, Live Oak Bank at benrjones@comcast.net or George Smith, Family Entertainment Group: geosmith4756@gmail.com.



Director of Maintenance and Development

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The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is looking for an experienced amusement park professional to join its management team as the Director of Maintenance and Development. This individual will direct the activities of an established staff of managers and skilled crafts-people maintaining and further developing the World's Best Seaside Amusement Park. Candidates must be team-oriented industry professionals with strong leadership and communication skills.

This leadership position organizes, leads and coordinates the work of Maintenance and Facilities Development; ensures that Maintenance and Facilities Development supports the needs of operating departments to meet seasonal business requirements; ensures safety requirements are met and ride downtime is minimized; integrates maintenance with new and ongoing construction projects; and works with staff to determine when to contract projects and when to complete projects with staff members.

Must be a team-oriented leader and communicator who can coordinate operations between departments and individuals and motivate staff. Assures that department provides timely preventative maintenance and repair for rides and facilities and that new construction projects are managed and integrated with current work in progress. Works with City and State officials to obtain permits. Works flexible extended hours and may travel to locations in and out of the state.

Skills Required: At least five years of progressively responsible experience managing construction and maintenance in Amusement or related industry. Knowledge of ride design and manufacturing preferred.

This full time position offers an excellent benefit package:
Pre-tax Flexible Spending or Health Savings Accounts
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To apply, please complete the Santa Cruz Seaside Company employment application, available at: beachboardwalk.com.

Santa Cruz Seaside Company | Employment Office
400 Beach Street | Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 460-3377

SPOTLIGHT: SAFETY & EDUCATION

WhiteWater's 3-step solutions brings life back to slides

RICHMOND, B.C., Canada — Water park owners and operators can now ensure that their waterslides stay looking brand new with WhiteWater's new three step cleaning process.

The first step includes the StayClean solution, which is a waterslide and play structure cleaner optimized to remove calcium, dirt and suntan oils. The second step, StayBuffed, is a waterslide buffing compound which removes the oxidation from waterslides. The third and final step is a gel coat sealer which seals and protects the gel coat surface from UV and calcium build up, called StaySealed.

This three step process works to maximize the lifespan of our customer's water park and water park products.

Company CEO Geoff

Chutter said, "WhiteWater's After Sales & Service department is dedicated to helping our customers ensure the longevity of their water parks, whether it's a complete refurbishing project or a waterslide inspection. Our in-house team of professional technicians has the expertise to address your waterpark's specific needs with competitive pricing and unbeatable customer service. On-going maintenance enhances a water park's visual appeal, as well as safeguards your products for years to come."

To find these maintenance products, and a full range of WhiteWater replacement and spare parts, visit the company's e-store or call (604) 273-1068.

• aftersales.whitewaterwest.com

ASTM announces leadership succession plan; Katharine E. Morgan to succeed James A. Thomas

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — The future leadership of ASTM International was decided recently at the October meetings of the ASTM board of directors in Seoul, South Korea. A unanimous decision was announced to have **Katharine E. Morgan**, current ASTM vice president of technical committee operations, succeed ASTM president **James A. Thomas**.

"Having been informed by Jim Thomas of his intention to retire, the executive committee of the board set out on a search for candidates whose passion for ASTM would again result in excellent stewardship of the society," says **Thomas A. Schwartz**, 2014 chairman of the ASTM board of directors. "Kathie is precisely that individual, with her instinctual knowledge of the workings of ASTM technical committees, the industry sectors they represent, as well as the global standardization landscape."

Morgan came to ASTM in 1984 as a staff manager and soon assumed roles of increasing responsibility in standards development at ASTM, rising to her current post in 2007. She holds a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering and a Master of Business Administration. Outside ASTM, Morgan is a member of the American National Standards Institute's Organizational Member Forum; the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives; the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization; the Society for Standards Professionals; and the Standards Council of Canada's Standards Development Organization Advisory Committee.

To ensure a smooth transition for ASTM's members and customers, Morgan will assume the position of ASTM executive vice president on March 1, 2015. She will work closely with Jim Thomas during a time of transition up to his retirement on Feb. 1, 2017.

"Since assuming the presidency in 1992, Jim Thomas' leadership has had an enormous positive impact on ASTM and its stakeholders. Jim is a respected ambassador, advocate and a voice not only for ASTM, but also for strategic standardization as a whole. We wish Jim and Kathie well, and appreciate their deep dedication to the future of ASTM," says Schwartz.

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SPOTLIGHT: SAFETY & EDUCATION

NAARSO's 2015 Safety Forum registration now open



MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — NAARSO has announced that registration is now open for the 28th Annual NAARSO Safety Forum to be held in Myrtle Beach, S.C., January 25-30, 2015.

Attendees will also want to register to stay at the Ocean Dunes/Sands Resort for the special NAARSO all inclusive rate of \$72 per night, for single/double occupancy.

In addition to NAARSO's up-to-date

classes, the association is excited to preview their Advanced Operations classes for those individuals wishing to take the new Level II Operations exam being offered on Thursday, January 29. NAARSO's hands-on inspection training and activities will take place on Wednesday, January 28 at the nearby Broadway at the Beach.

The full brochure can be found on our website, www.naarso.com, under the Semi-

nars button. Tuition cost is \$445 and includes classroom material, lunches, coffee breaks, and a banquet at the end of the seminar.

For more information contact Connie Patton at the NAARSO office, (813) 661-2779 or by email: naarsoinfo@aol.com.

Come join NAARSO as the association continues their mission of: Safety Through Communication.



28th ANNUAL SAFETY FORUM January 25 – 30, 2015

We are excited to offer the most up-to-date classes during our annual safety forum! Enclosed you will find all the information you need to sign up for this informative training. This year our hands-on activity will take place at Broadway at the Beach located in Myrtle Beach, SC. Visit our website, www.naarso.com under the Seminars button for the full brochure

OPERATIONS CERTIFICATION

We are pleased to offer new advanced Operations classes this year for those wishing to further their Operational knowledge. In addition, we will continue the Level I Operational classes to support the requirements for taking the exam on Thursday, January 29.

Registration will begin on Sunday, January 25, 2015, with an orientation session. Classes will end after noon on Friday, January 30 and the Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams will take place later that afternoon. Tuition cost is \$445 for current 2015 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$495.

The event will be held at the Ocean Dunes/Sands Resort located at 201 75th Ave N, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.

Room rates are \$72 all inclusive single/double with discounted breakfast available.

There are also 2 & 3 bedroom units available, ask for details on pricing when you book your rooms

This year you can book your room reservation on line by using the link information below:

www.meetingsatthebeach.com, use Group ID #199186 or by calling 800-599-9872, mention NAARSO

Membership Meeting will be held at the Ocean Dunes/Sands Resort January 25 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

SAFETY & EDUCATION CALENDAR

**AIMS International
2015 Safety Seminar**
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www.aimsintl.org

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www.foundationsuniversity.com

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January 25-30, 2015
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www.naarso.com

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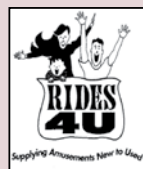
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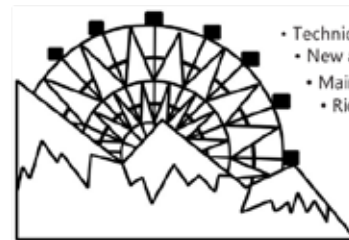


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